Battle Angel Alita

ANGEL OF DEATH

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

ANGEL OF DEATH

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA™ GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

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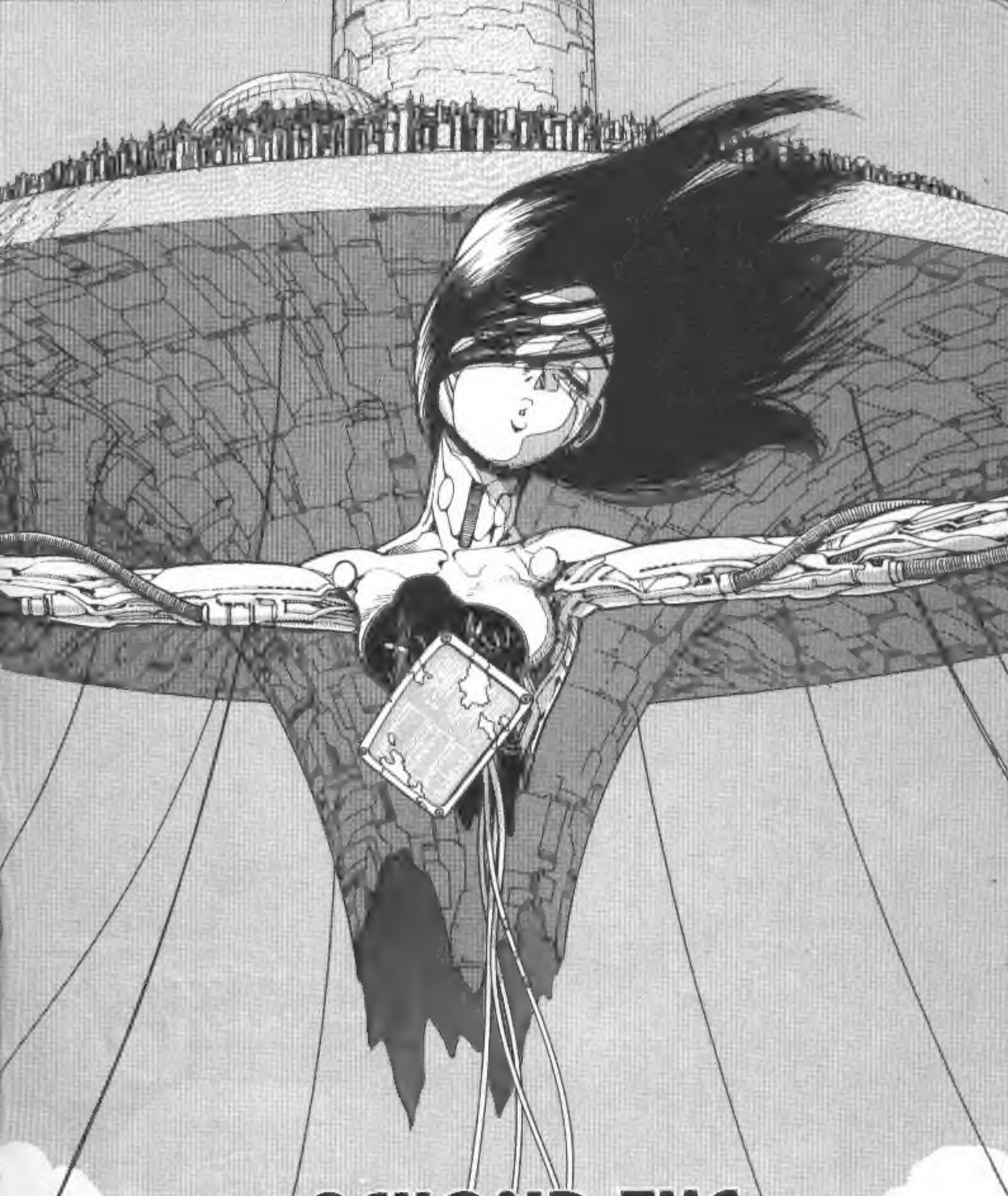
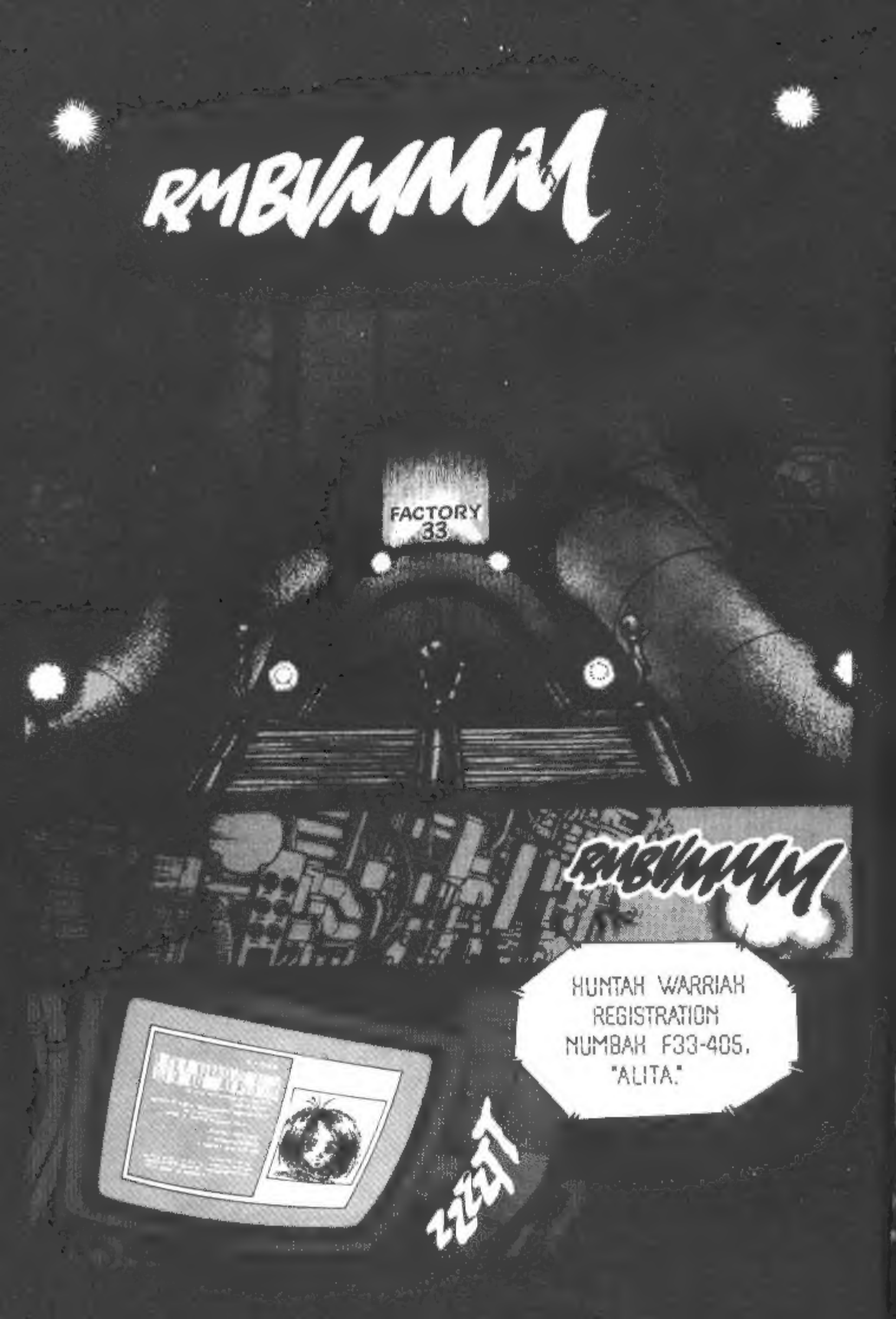
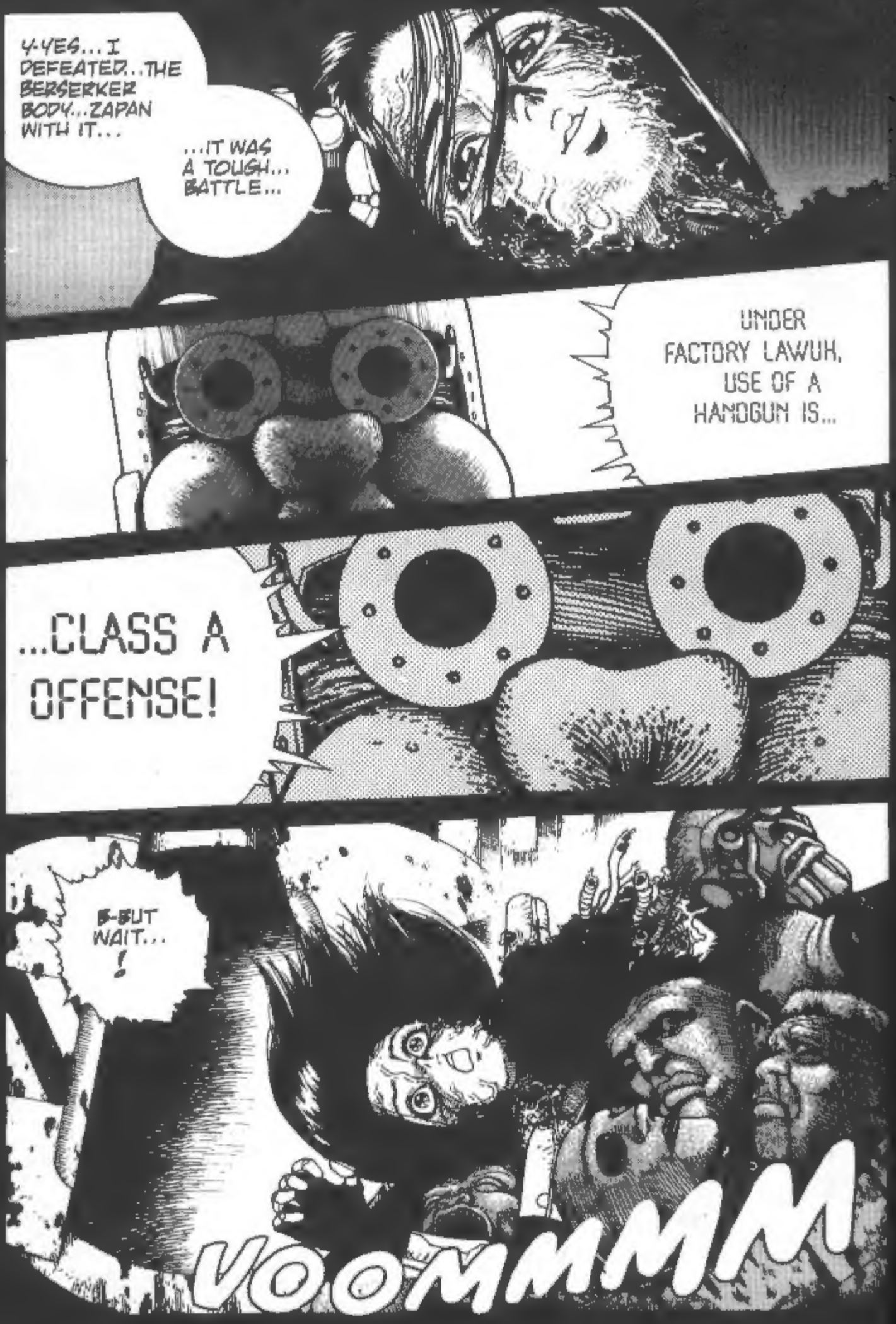


BEYOND THE YELLOW DOOR

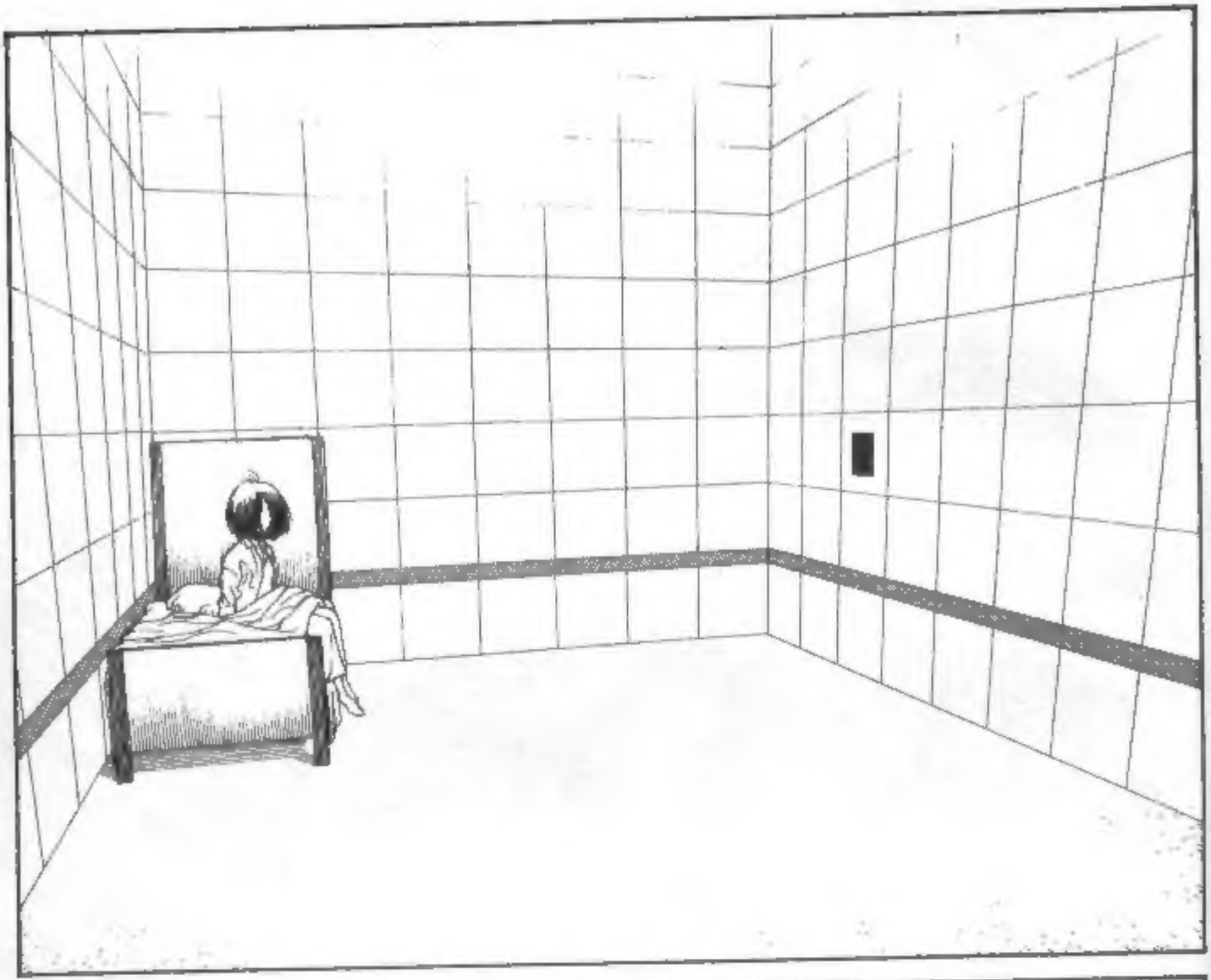
Journey 1: Judgment Day


RMBVMMM
FACTORY 33
RMBVMMM
HUNTAH WARRIAH REGISTRATION NUMBAH F33-405. "ALITA."
zzzt

RMBVMMM
RMBVMMM
IS IT TRUWAH YOU WERE THE WUN THAT USED THIS GUN!?
ANSUH NOW!


Y-YES... I DEFEATED..THE BERSERKER BODY...ZAPAN WITH IT...
...IT WAS A TOUGH... BATTLE...
UNDER FACTORY LAWUH, USE OF A HANDGUN IS...
...CLASS A OFFENSE!
B-BUT WAIT...!
VOOMMMM

I SAVED THE WHOLE SCRAPYARD..!
YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME--!
KAKEEENG



HUH...
?

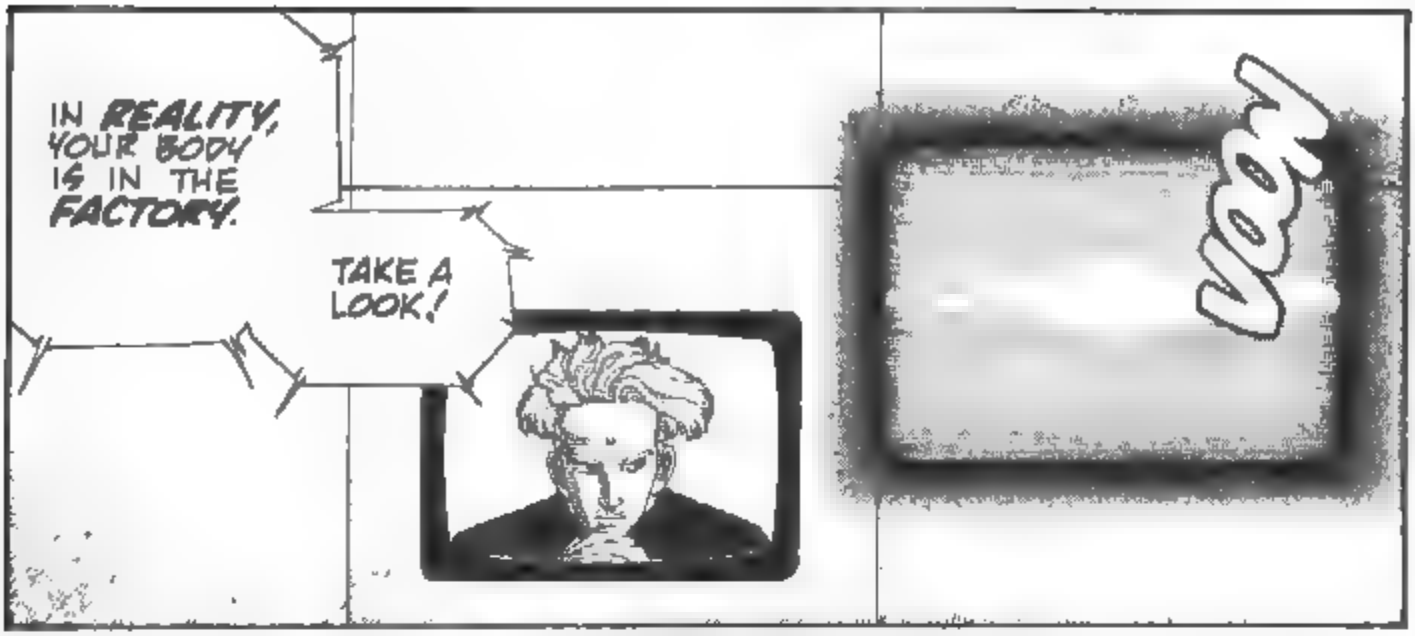
S-SO COLD...

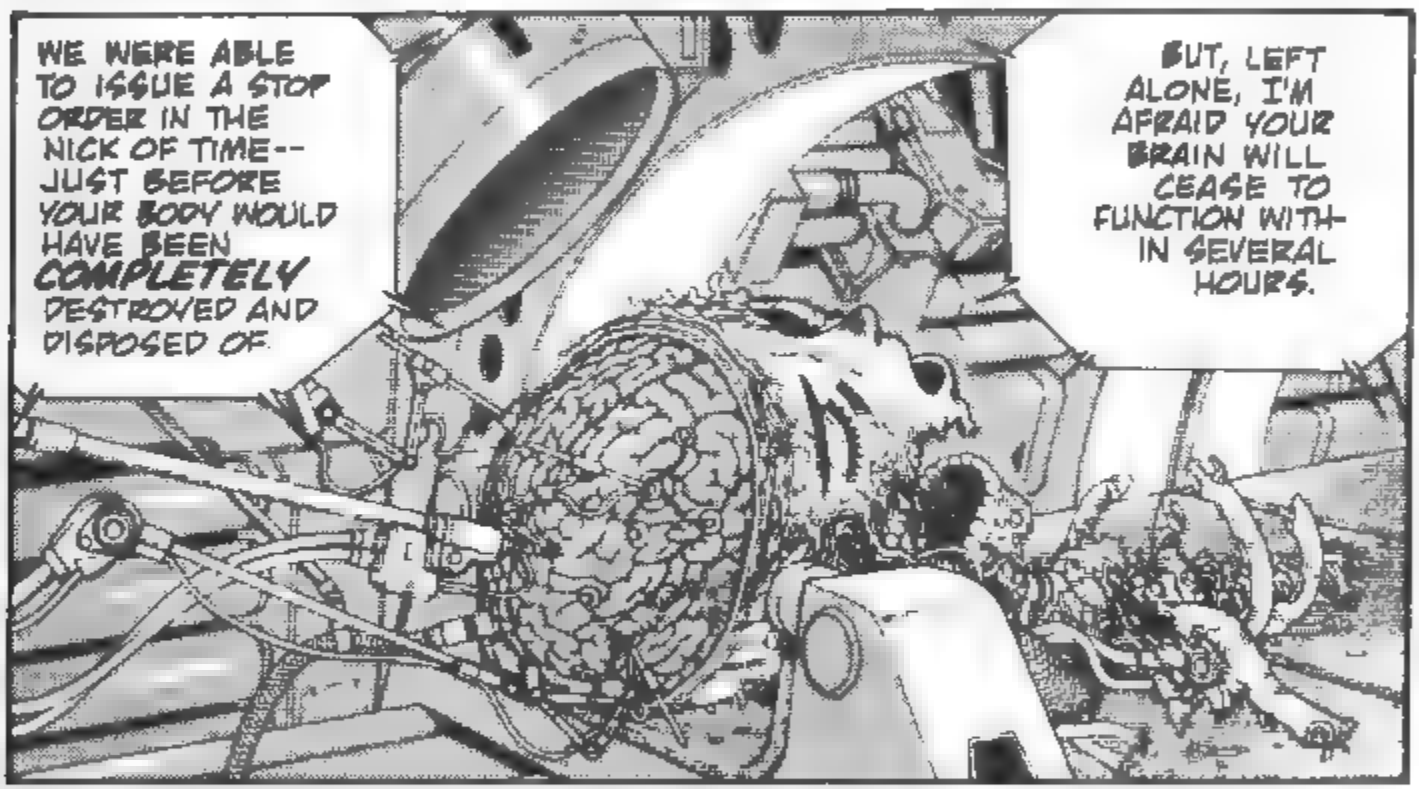
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?

WHERE AM I...?
MUST BE JUST DREAMING...

VOON
ZZ JJ T

HELLO.
WHO'RE YOU?
.....
I'M SPEAKING TO YOU FROM TIPHARES...
...CHATTING IN YOUR DREAM, AS IT WERE.
TIPHARES...? DREAM?
THAT GRAY ROOM YOU ARE IN--MERELY AN ELECTRONICALLY INDUCED DREAM VISTA


IN REALITY, YOUR BODY IS IN THE FACTORY.
TAKE A LOOK!
VOOM

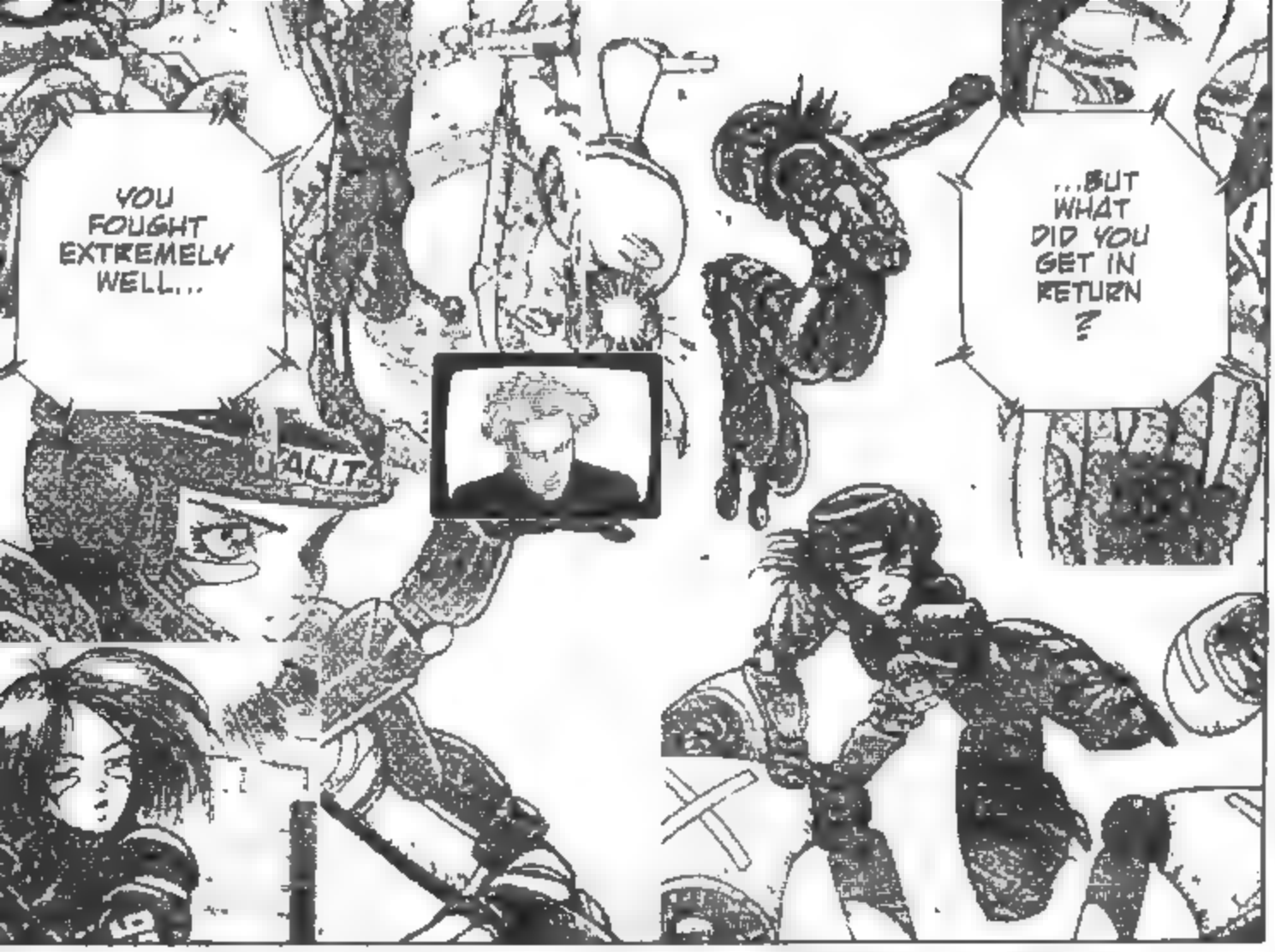

WE WERE ABLE TO ISSUE A STOP ORDER IN THE NICK OF TIME-- JUST BEFORE YOUR BODY WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND DISPOSED OF.
BUT, LEFT ALONE, I'M AFRAID YOUR BRAIN WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS.

BASICALLY, YOU ARE DYING.

.....
W-WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS...?
JUST WHO ARE YOU!?

I CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.
I CAN CLEAR YOU OF THAT CLASS A CRIME
I CAN GIVE YOU A NEW BODY...A SECOND CHANCE
AND IN RETURN ?
HMPH !
WHY, YOU'LL WORK FOR THE GOOD OF TIPHARES, OF COURSE
A DECKMAN!? I'D RATHER ROT!
HAH!
10
UH NO
THIS IS A SPECIAL DUTY A DECKMAN CAN NOT PERFORM.
VMMMM

K-KIMJI!?
WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING YOUR ACTIONS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TR-55.
IN ORDER TO FIND CANDIDATES FOR THIS PROJECT, WE SENT OUT A THOUSAND TR-55 ARTIFICIAL LIFEFORMS TO THE SURFACE.
ALITA
WE'VE FOUND YOUR EXTRAORDINARY FIGHTING ABILITY TO BE MOST... PRAISEWORTHY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! KIMJI? A RECONNAISSANCE LIFEFORM...!?

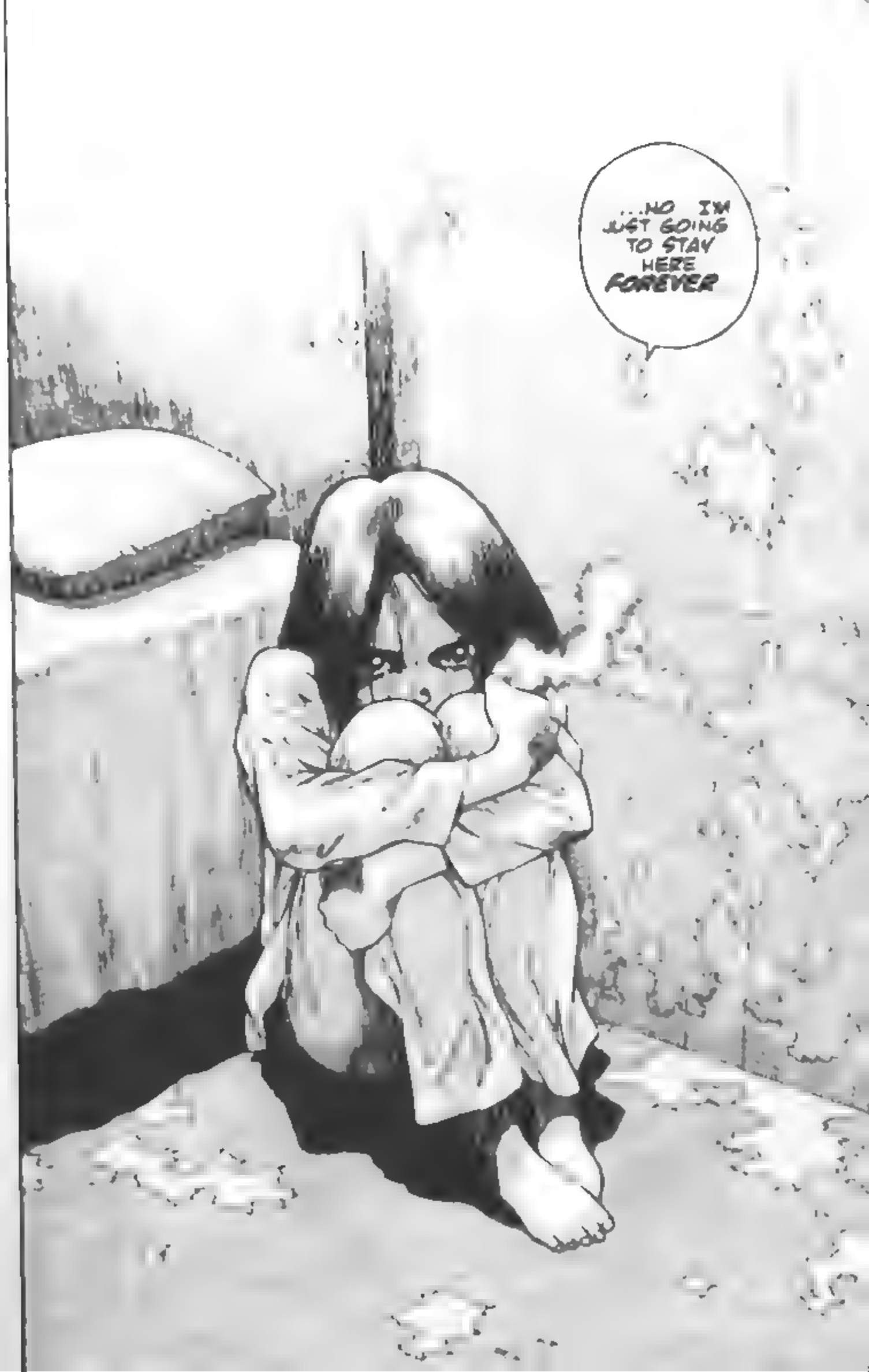

YOU FOUGHT EXTREMELY WELL...
...BUT WHAT DID YOU GET IN RETURN?

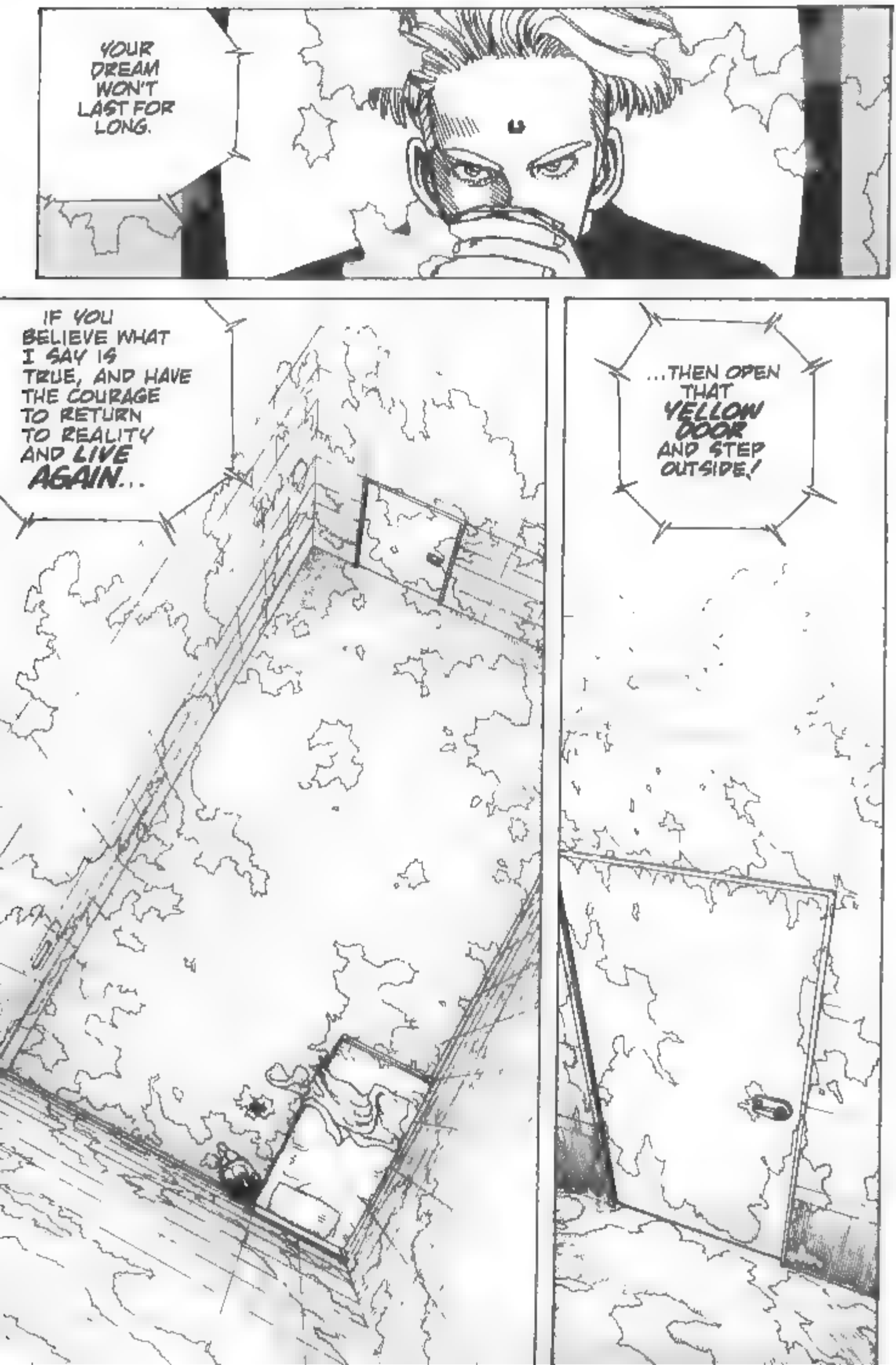
YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER!
YOU'VE BROUGHT US NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!

WE NEED YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO HIM!

STOP!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS!
D-DAMN YOU..
UUUNHH...
AAAAAANHH!
UNTIL NOW, YOU HAVE BEEN LIKE A KNIFE OUT OF ITS SHEATH... A WEAPON WITH NO OWNER.
FROM NOW ON, WE WILL BE YOUR MASTER! WE WILL GIVE YOU A PURPOSE!
BECOME OUR TOOL, ALITA!

SHOOP
HEH... HEH, HEH... AHA, HA, HA, HA...
!?
I WON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY... JUST A DREAM...
HA, HA... THIS IS A DREAM, RIGHT...?
...AND I'M NOT LEAVING HERE...


...NO IM JUST GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER


YOUR DREAM WON'T LAST FOR LONG.
IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY IS TRUE, AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO RETURN TO REALITY AND LIVE AGAIN...
...THEN OPEN THAT YELLOW DOOR AND STEP OUTSIDE!

IF I BECOME A "TOOL" FOR TIPHARES..
. WILL I BECOME... STRONGER ?
OF COURSE.

YOU WILL BECOME OUR MOST POWERFUL SURFACE AGENT-- THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED."
YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FINEST BACK UP-- IN TERMS OF INFORMATION, WEAPONRY, AND MAINTENANCE-- THAT TIPHARES HAS TO OFFER.
AS THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED," YOUR PRIMARY MISSION IS TO LOCATE AND ARREST...
...A SCIENTIST WHO DEFECTED FROM TIPHARES... DESTY NOVA.
D-DES...
...DESTY NOVA...
!?

DOCTOR IDO...
...HAS "PASSED ON."
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO HEAL IDO.
PROMISE ME..!
IDO...
LEAVE IT TO ME.
IDO IS ALREADY MY PATIENT.

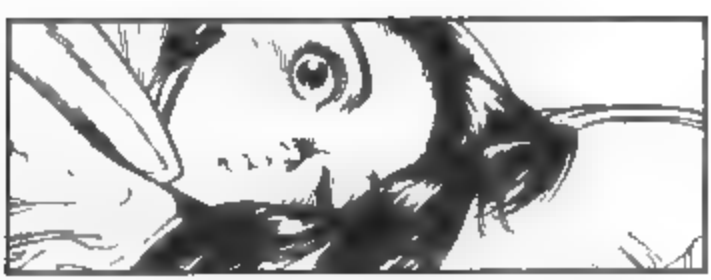
I HAVE TO GO SEE IDO!
KAKKEK

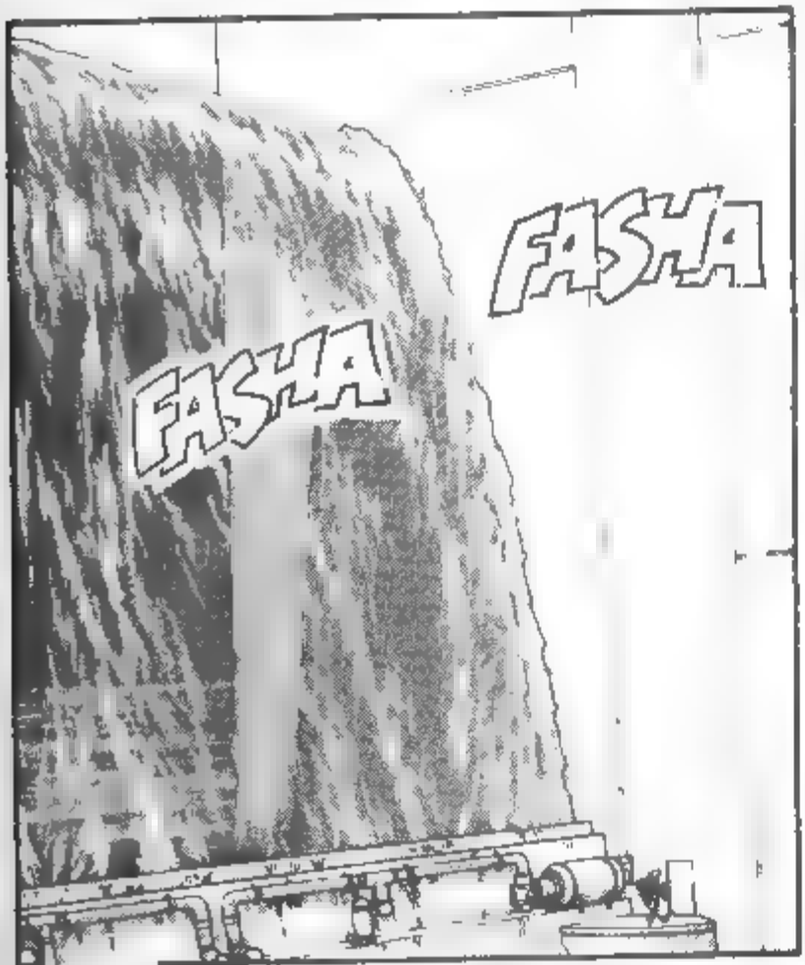
YES. THAT YELLOW DOOR...
...BEYOND IT IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU HAVE A FUTURE.

I DO.
I'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS ROOM AFTER
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS PATH WILL TAKE ME
OR WHAT AWAITS ME AT JOURNEY'S END
I I DON'T KNOW IF THIS CHOICE WILL BE THE END OF ME

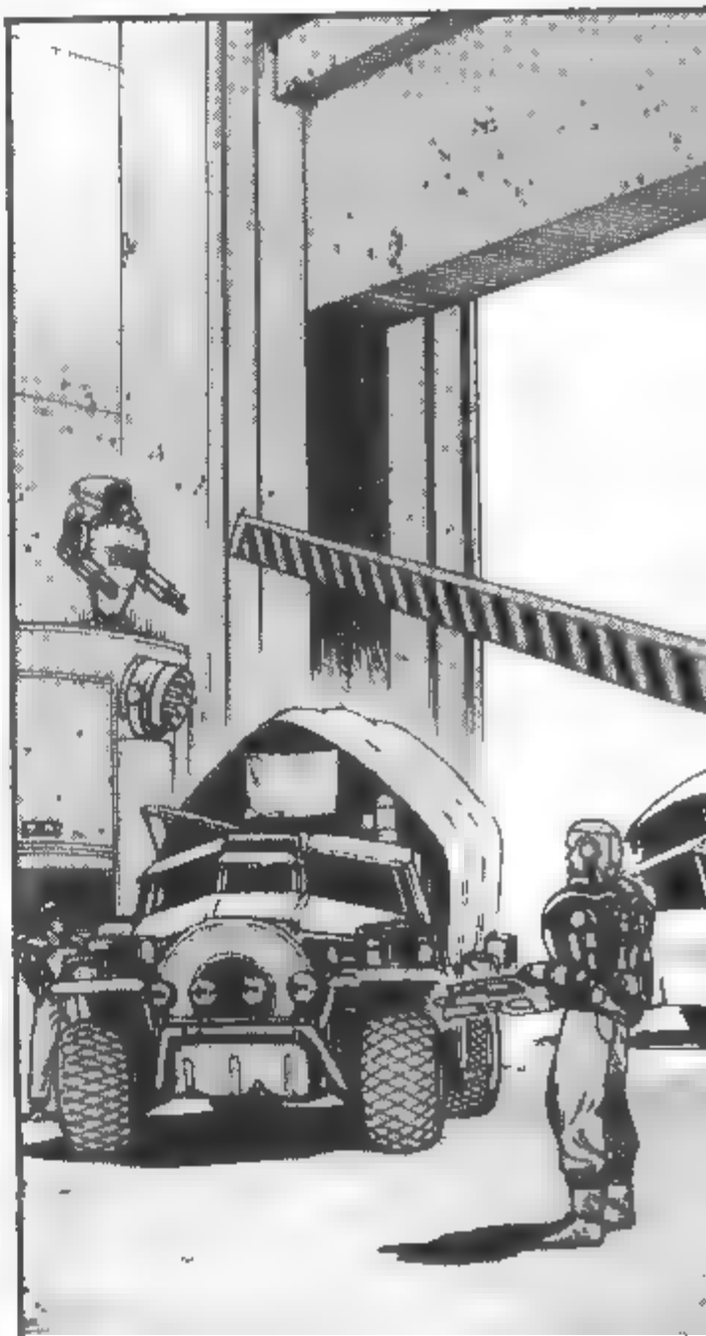
BUT...I PLAN TO GO AS FAR AS I CAN, BELIEVING IN MYSELF. .

...WITH ALL THE COURAGE I CAN FIND WITHIN...



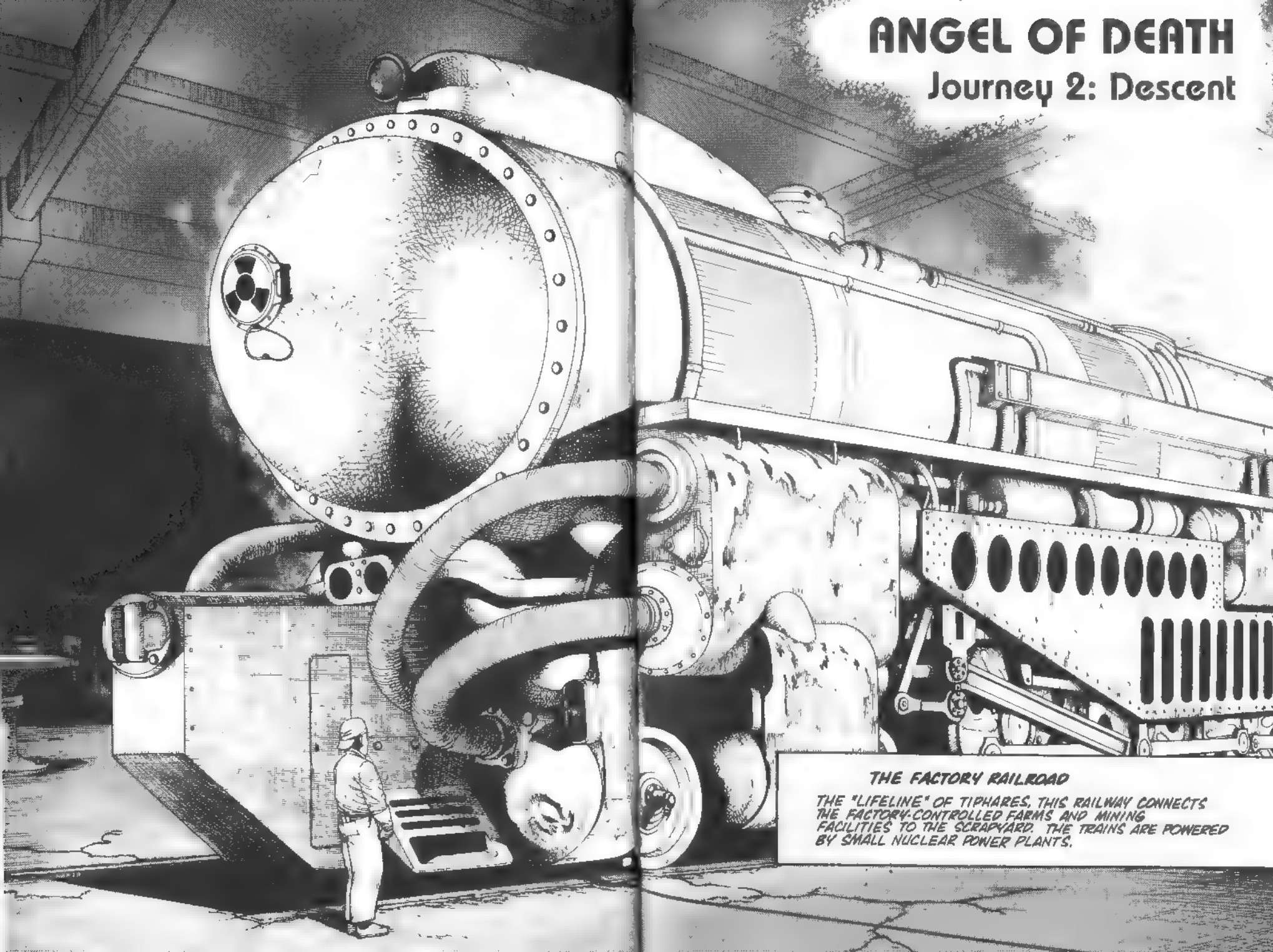


THE HYDRO-WALL
A FOUNTAIN OF SUPER VISCOUS LIQUID, PROJECTED 20 METERS INTO THE AIR BY A HIGH-PRESSURE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PUMP, SURROUNDS THE OUTER BOUNDARY OF THE SCRAPYARD



ANGEL OF DEATH

Journey 2: Descent



THE FACTORY RAILROAD

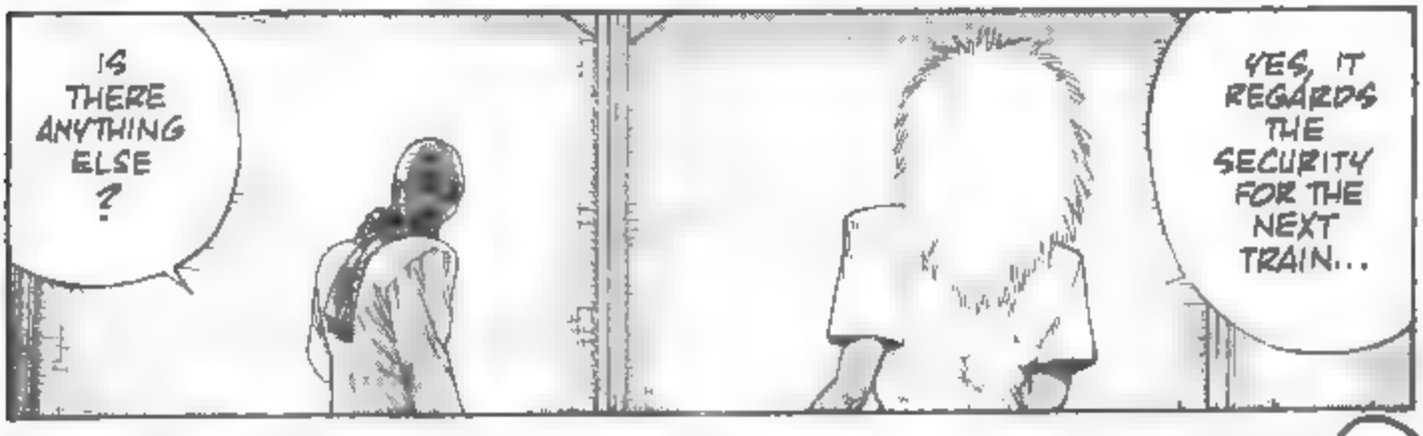
THE "LIFELINE" OF TIPHARES, THIS RAILWAY CONNECTS THE FACTORY-CONTROLLED FARMS AND MINING FACILITIES TO THE SCRAPYARD. THE TRAINS ARE POWERED BY SMALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

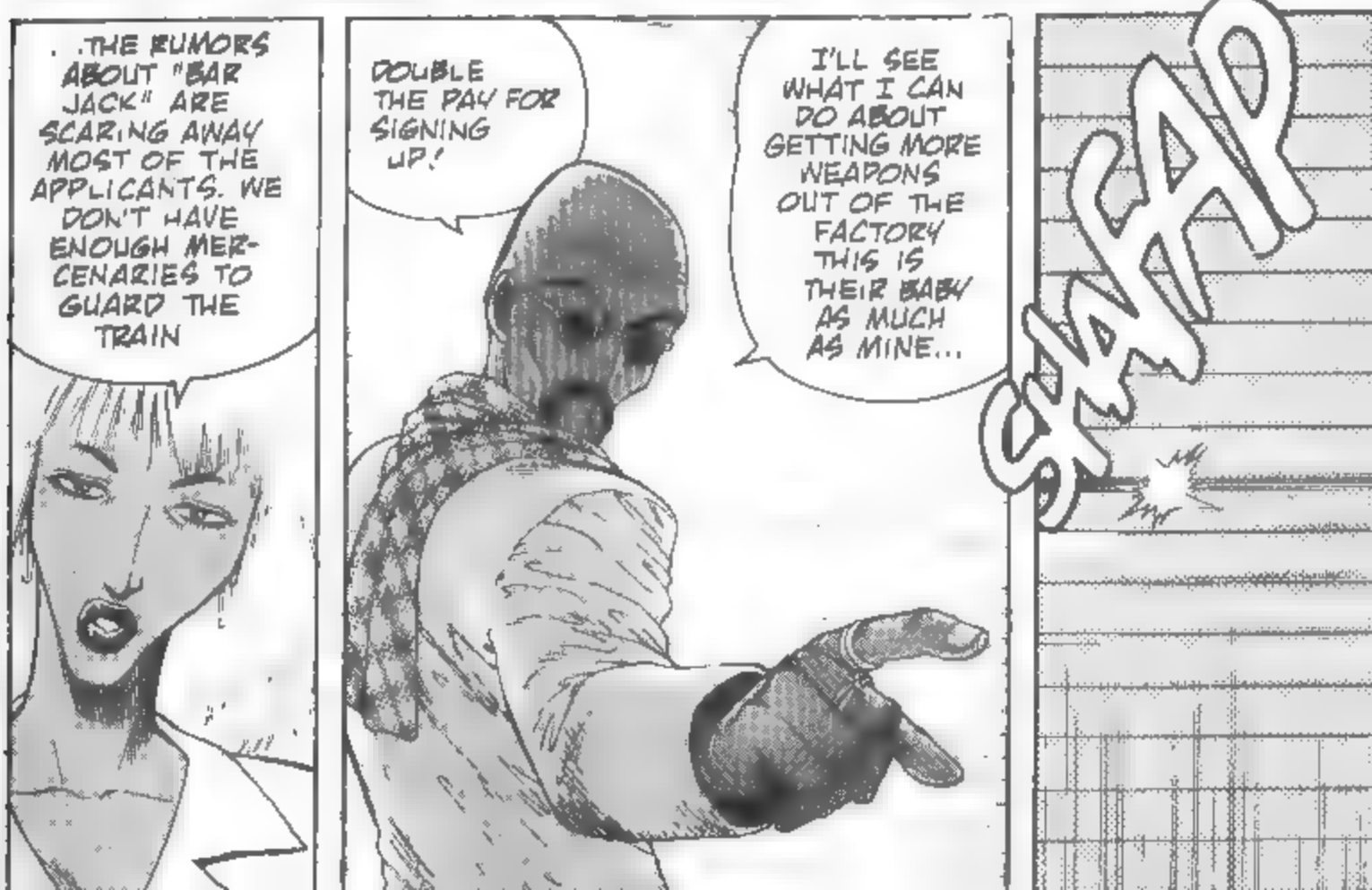
NOT AGAIN !
THOOP
REPORT
DAMN BANDITS -- HOW MANY TIMES A MONTH CAN THEY ATTACK ME!? WELL, WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?
WHUMP
FACTORY 10W
15km
AUTO REPAIRS

FIVE CARAVANS AND THEIR MERCENARY GUARDS WERE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT, WITH LOSSES EXCEEDING 40 MILLION CHIPS, MR VECTOR
AH, IN THE GOLDEN DAYS, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PAY A "TOLL AND THE BANDITS LEFT MY CARAVANS ALONE
BUT EVER SINCE THAT MOBILE BANDIT BRIGADE "BAR JACK" SHOWED UP FIVE YEARS AGO, THINGS HAVE BEEN A REAL MESS
THOSE GUYS ARE CRAZY. IN THE SOUTHERN TERRITORY, THEY EVEN ATTACKED THE FACTORY RAILROAD AND STOLE AN ENTIRE TRAIN!
WITH THEM STARTING TO ATTACK FACTORY SHIPMENTS LIKE THIS IT THREATENS MY POSITION AS A BROKER
THE ONLY DATA WE HAVE ON "BAR JACK" IS THAT THEY'RE LED BY A MAN NAMED "DEN"

SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THIS "DEN."
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DETEST IT, I MUST WORK OUT ANOTHER "ARRANGEMENT" WITH THOSE BANDITS. .
!?

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER ?
UH.. IT'S NOTHING.
A TRICK OF THE LIGHT ?
THAT GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE FACTORY AND TERMINATED MANY YEARS AGO.


IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ?
YES, IT REGARDS THE SECURITY FOR THE NEXT TRAIN...


. .THE RUMORS ABOUT "BAR JACK" ARE SCARING AWAY MOST OF THE APPLICANTS. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MERCENARIES TO GUARD THE TRAIN
DOUBLE THE PAY FOR SIGNING UP!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT GETTING MORE WEAPONS OUT OF THE FACTORY THIS IS THEIR BABY AS MUCH AS MINE...
BAR JACK

AIL MERCENARY
BE ALL YA CAN BE--JOIN THE RAIL MERCENARIES! A HUNNERD THOUSAND CHIPS EVER' WEEK--MEALS INCLUDED!
WE'RE TAKIN' ON THE FIRST FOURTEEN APPLICANTS !
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SIT IN A TRAIN, AN' YA MAKE LOADS OF MONEY! YA CAN'T FIND A BETTER JOB!
FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND A MONTH... NOT BAD.
THE LINE BEGINS HERE!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY..

OFFICE
HEH... THOSE GUYS ARE HUNTER-WARRIORS FROM THE SCRAPYARD-- BUT NONE OF 'EM'S EVER SHOT A GUN...
IDIOTS... THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO GO UP AGAINST THE BARJACK!
SORRY, WE GOT FOURTEEN ALREADY.
OH... IS THAT SO?
WELL, THEN...
HEY!
BLOCK
...NOW THERE'S ROOM FOR ME, RIGHT?
KRESH
0-02

HEY, YOU OKAY, MAN?
TONK
.....
HOLD IT ONE SECOND!
NOW, WHY IN THE WORLD DO YOU CYBERS FROM THE YARD NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ANY MANNERS!?
FUP FUP
HMM? YOU TALKING TO ME, PUNK?
GUYS LIKE YOU--LINE-CUTTERS WHO KNOW NO GUILT--YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!

GWAHAHAHA! ARE YOU DRUNK--OR JUST ON SOMETHING? TOUGH TALK FOR A STRAIGHT-MEAT HICK!
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU LONG TO FEEL MY FIST IN YOUR GUT!
TRY MY ORGAN-BUSTER ON FOR SIZE!
SKLEESH
WHAM

HYU!
KAFWAP
SHAAA
KRAK

KRAKKA
KA

WHOA! THAT GUY TOOK OUT A CYBORG, BARE-HANDED!
IS HE DEAD?

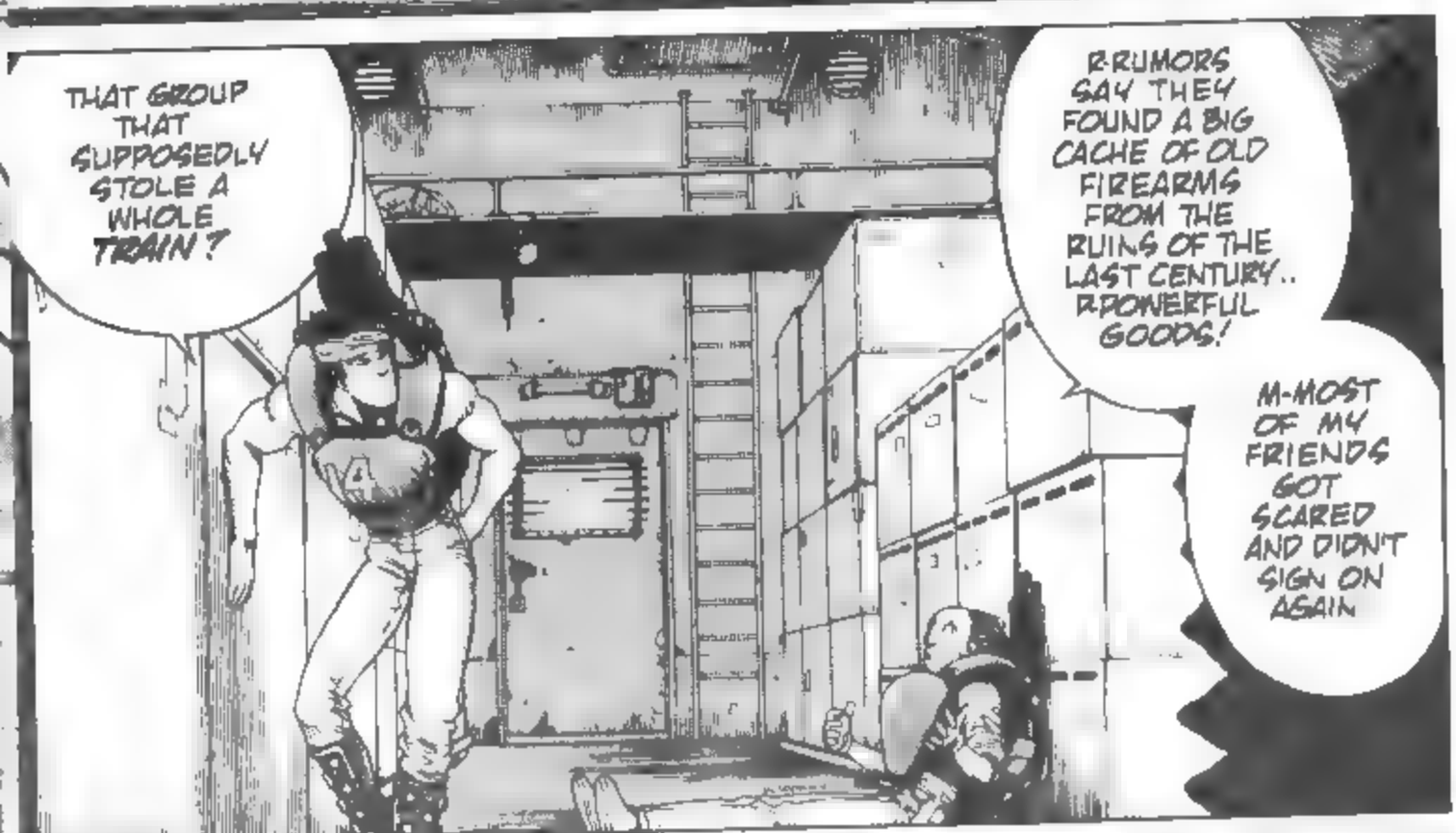
NAW, JUST OUT WITH A SLIGHT CONCUSSION.

YOU'RE NOT HALF BAD. SIGN THE CONTRACT...
HEH, HEH, HEH...
CAN'T READ, HUH? NO PROBLEM..
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
FIGURE FOUR!

SHOOOOOOO
VUMVUM
VUM

CHUM CHUM CHUM CHUM
I-I SAW THAT FIGHT YOU HAD... YOU WERE GREAT.
WANT MY RATIONS TOO?
J-JUST ASK ME ANYTHING. IT'S YOUR FIRST TOUR, RIGHT?
M-MY NAME'S YOLG!
I-IF YOU MOVE YOUR GUN LIKE THIS...IT WON'T B-BUMP AGAINST THOSE SHOULDER BLADES OF YOURS.
TAK
YOLG, HUH, ? THANKS.
THIS GUN'S GONNA GET IN THE WAY IN THE BATHROOM-- CAN YOU TAKE IT OFF?
I-IT'S LIKE A NICE DOG COLLAR... RENT-A-GUNS CAN'T BE REMOVED, N-NOT WHILE YOU'RE UNDER CONTRACT.
T-TRY TO TAKE IT OFF-- OR IF YOU STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE TRAIN--AND THE EXPLOSIVES HERE'LL R-RIP YOUR HEAD OFF!
HEHEH
THAT'S ROUGH...
14

H-HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE B-BARJACK ?


THAT GROUP THAT SUPPOSEDLY STOLE A WHOLE TRAIN?
R-RUMORS SAY THEY FOUND A BIG CACHE OF OLD FIREARMS FROM THE RUINS OF THE LAST CENTURY.. R-POWERFUL GOODS!
M-MOST OF MY FRIENDS GOT SCARED AND DIDN'T SIGN ON AGAIN

THEN WHY DID YOU STAY ON?

T-THIS TRAIN IS HEADED TOWARD FARM 22. I'VE GOT A W-WIFE AND KID, THERE.
S-SEE ?
09

A FAMILY...
...HARD TO BELIEVE.
I PLAN TO GO HOME MYSELF-- AFTER I MAKE SOME CHIPS!
O-OH? WH-WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME?
A LITTLE PLACE BY THE OCEAN-- OVER THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS.
A YEAR AGO, WHEN I WANTED TO SEE TIPHARES, I CAME OUT TO THE SCRAPYARD... BUT THAT PLACE DIDN'T SUIT ME AT ALL...
HHA, HA, HA, HA! I-I'M NOT SURPRISED! THAT PLACE IS FOR CYBERS--IT'S NO PLACE FOR HUMANS TO LIVE.

VWOO OOOO
rail box
rail box

SHOOOOOSH
GUESS THE WIDE, OPEN PLAINS DO SUIT ME BETTER THAN THE CITY.
AHHH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET.

!

Y-YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN...

SHE ISN'T WEARING A RENTA-GUN,.. AIN'T SHE A MERCENARY ?
E-EVEN THE MERCENARY CHIEF DOESN'T KNOW WHO SHE IS...

TH-THEY SAY SHE HAS SOME SORT OF LINK TO THE F-FACTORY.. E-EVERYONE THINKS SHE IS THE "ANGEL OF DEATH"!
Y-YOU LOSE A YEAR OFF YOUR LIFE FOR EVERY WORD YOU SPEAK TO HER...

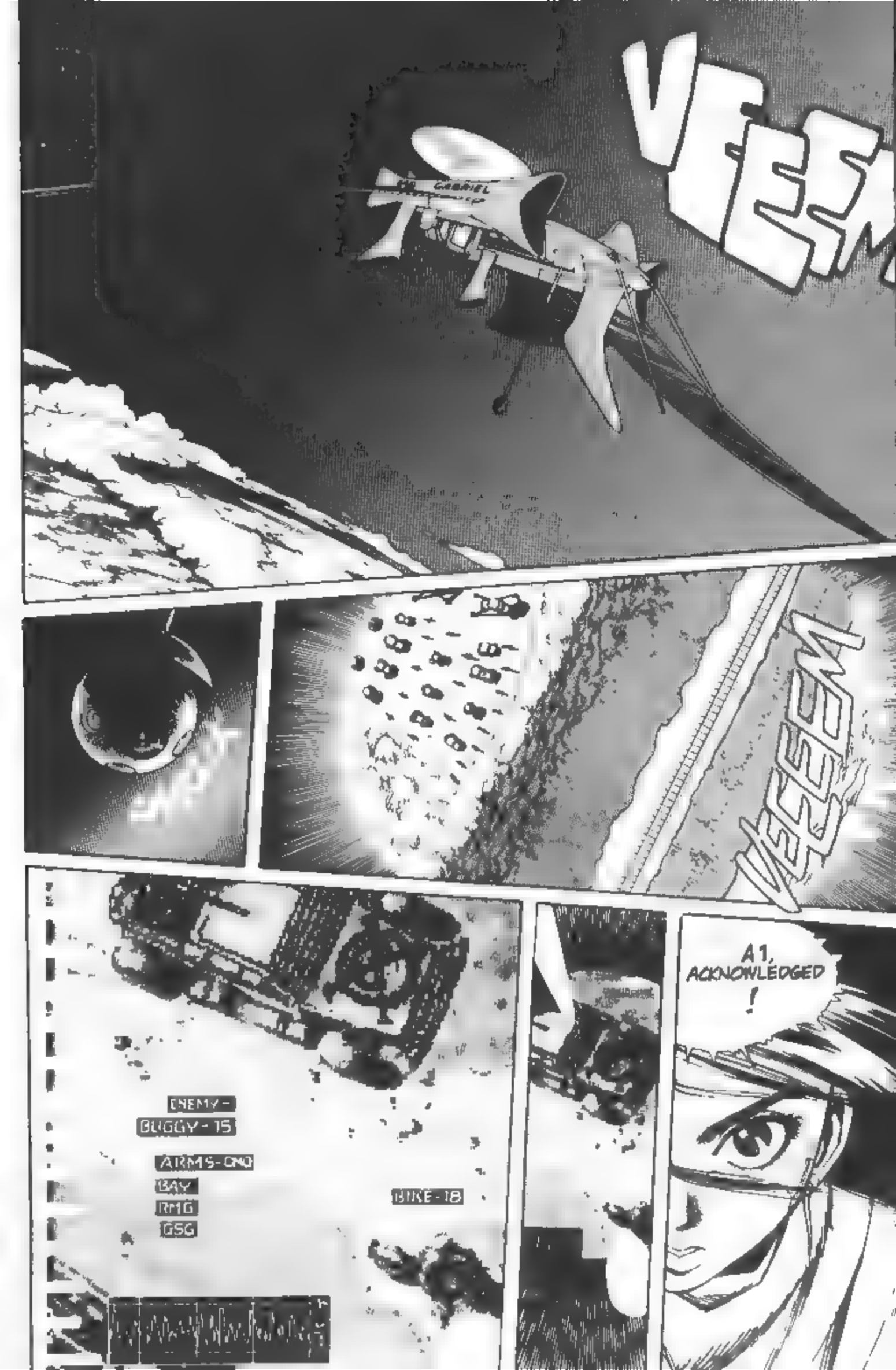
H-HEY!

HEH, HEH, HEH..
I PLAY THE HARMONICA PRETTY GOOD MYSELF...
SNOOF
HA HA
WAAAK
WELL, I USED TO BE GOOD-- AS A KID...
HA, HA, HA-- JUST WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY...?

THE NAME'S FIGURE FOUR... AND YOU?
...ALITA.
HEY, THIS IS SOME RIFLE YOU GOT HERE! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, ALITA--START A WAR?
SKUK
TUP

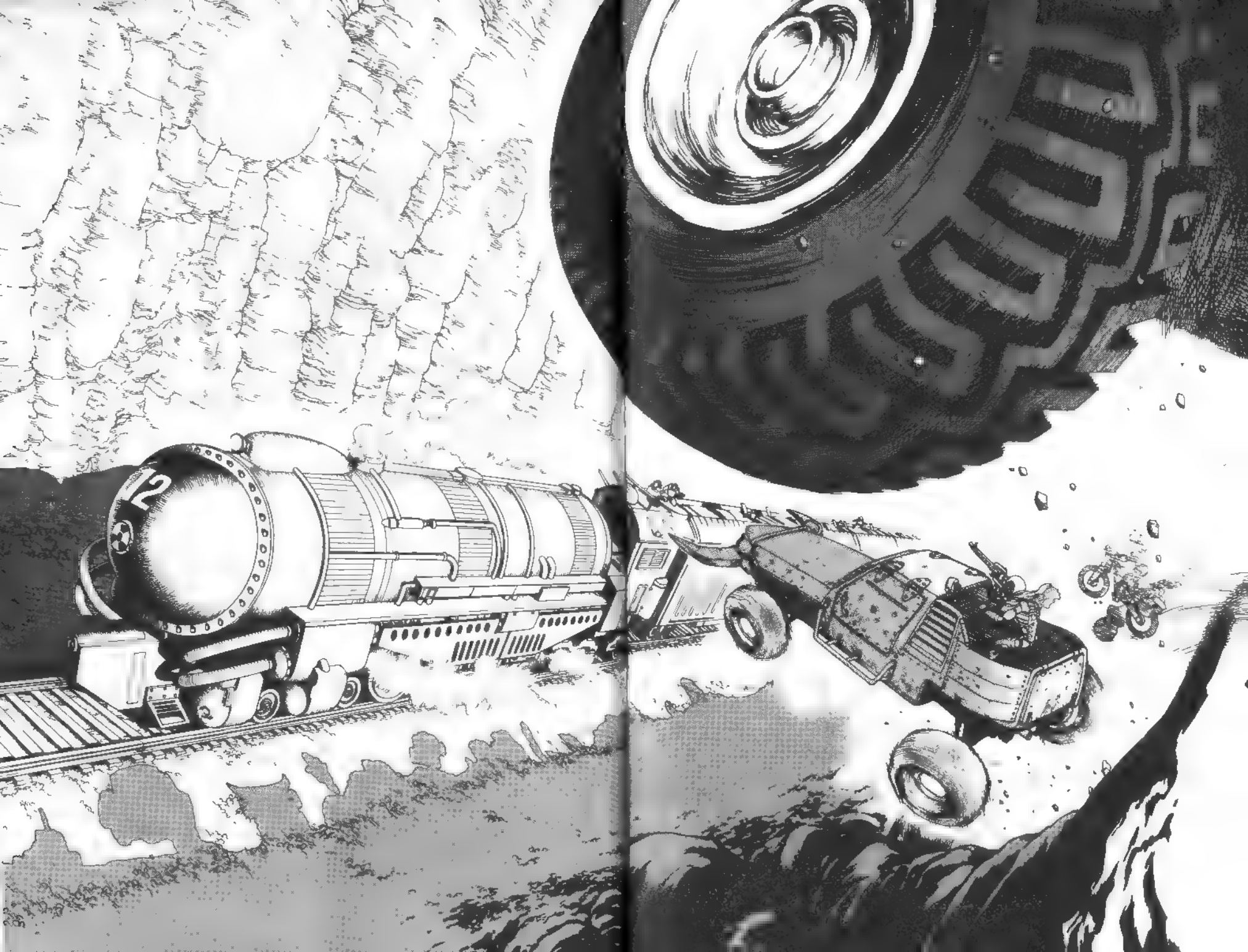
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, MISTER FOUR. IF YOU GET TOO INVOLVED WITH ME...
..YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN AN EARLY GRAVE. HAPPENS TO EVERYONE...

FEH... DON'T YOU TRY TO SCARE--
WHAT IS IT!?
FSSH
--WHOA!
.....!?


VEE
GABRIEL
VEEEM
ENEMY -
BUGGY - 15
ARMS - CNO
BAY
RMG
GSG
BIKE - 18
A1, ACKNOWLEDGED !

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, GIRL !?
FOOMP
CHIEF, WE GOT COMPANY! BATTLE STATIONS!
HUH? BUT I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON THE MONITORS...
ALL MEAT
Full-Flesh Girls
The Girls of FARM 21
BABES!
HOW 'BOUT YOU, NUMBER 5?
CLEAR AS CRYSTAL ON THE ANTI-INCOMING RADAR AND INFRARED SENSORS! HEY, HEY, HEY!
HEAR THAT? NO WORRIES!
FOOP

THERE'S AN AMBUSH-- FIFTEEN BUGGIES AND EIGHTEEN MOTORCYCLES AT TWO O'CLOCK... DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF DEATH WISH?
UH...
WAH!
KAPASH
RED ALERT! RED ALERT!
KAPANK
AAAAAGH!
SAFETY LOCKS RELEASED! ALL PERSONNEL, PREPARE FOR COMBAT!
ZWOK
YAAAAGH!
HEY! WATCH IT, IDIOT!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
WHERE ARE THEY!?


12

VROOOM
OH, NO! THEY REALLY ARE ATTACKIN'!
VOOOOOM

!
CHIEF! STOP THE TRAIN!
WHAT!? AT A TIME LIKE THIS? ARE YOU NUTS!?
A "CLASS A" COMMAND TAKES PRIORITY! STOPPING THE TRAIN WHEEE!
WHAT!? NO! DON'T DO IT, YOU IDIOT!
SKREEEE
SKREEEECH

KABOOM
NOOOO!
THE TRACK!
DAMN! WE WON'T STOP IN TIME!
!?
KWUMP

KLOOM
KLANGLANG
rail box
SKREEE

BOX
trail BOX

HAAAA! KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM!

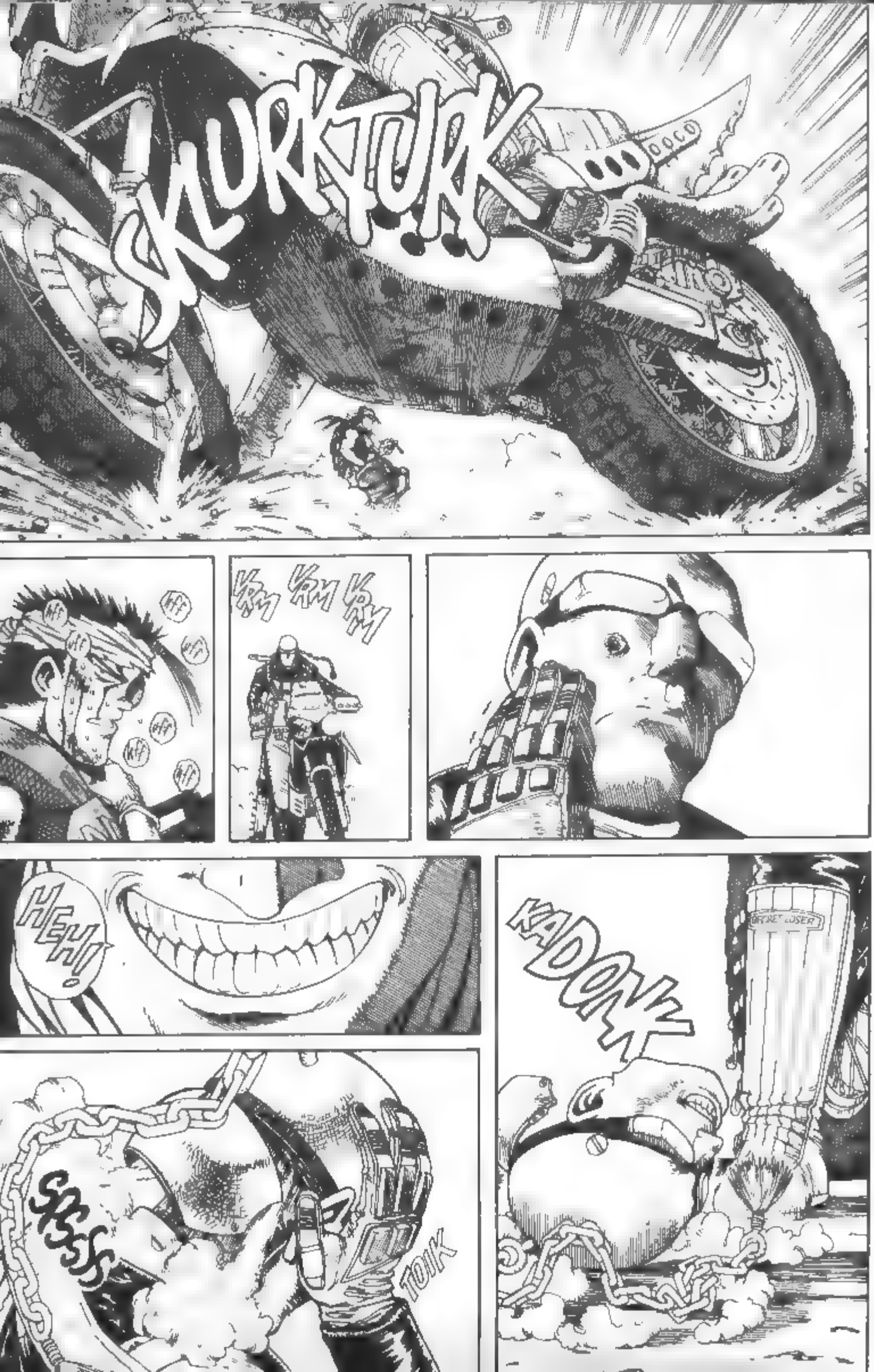
BWOOSH
!?
HAAAA
SAAAAA

BRATTA
BWAM
BREEP
BREEP
UUNGH..
ALARMS? OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS THROWN CLEAR OF THE TRAIN WHEN IT CRASHED!
I WONDER WHERE THE OTHERS...?
OUCH
WARNING... WARNING...
YOU HAVE STRAYED OVER TWENTY METERS FROM THE TRAIN! RETURN IMMEDIATELY!
NAAAH! I'M OUTTA HERE!
YEEEE!
WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE WITH THE TRAIN LIKE THIS!

WAAAH.
BWOM
BWOM
BWOM
IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY, YOUR ACTION WILL BE DEEMED AS DESERTION, AND THIS PACK WILL EXPLODE IN TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.
.....
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
W-WAIT... PLEASE!
YOLG!
HANG ON!
M-MY LEG'S BROKEN! I-IT HURTS! OOOOH..
!?

BLAM
SPLORT
YOK!
FIFTEEN SECONDS TO SELF-DESTRUCT.
VRRRRRRM
WHEE!

KRRRMMM
YAAAAH!
YOU BASTARD!
BRATATATATA


KURKTURK
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
KRM KRM KRM
HEH!
SCSSS
TOIK
KADONK
SECRET USER

BWWW
DAMN!
KYK KYK
10 SECONDS TO SELF-DESTRUCT
THE GUN-- JAMMED!
WHY ME?!
SKEET
9

HEY, GIMME YOUR GUN!
AAAAH! H-HELP ME! HELP!
8
HEEH!
7
HAAAAA!
KABOOM

HOLD STILL.
WHUMP
!?
BABOOSH

BOOM
BAM
KREEK
KRIEK
GAH!

6
HA!
FWAM
FOOM
WHOA!
HA, HA!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

THUD
UNGH!
FWOK
YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME THE WAY...
SHOW ME THE WAY TO YOUR BOSS!
SELF-DESTRUCT SYSTEM DEACTIVATED
PLEASE RETURN TO DUTY
...I PEED MY PANTS A LITTLE...

NUCLEAR WINDS

Journey 3: Pride

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THAT GIRL DID ALL THIS-- BY HERSELF...!?

DAMN YOU! KILL ME! KILLLL MEEE!
TOOMP
TOOMP
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET LEAVING KNUCKLEHEAD ALIVE!
.....
GOT THAT!? I'LL KILLL YOU!
SNIK
.....
.....
SHUT UP FOR A WHILE...

!?
WHAAH!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT--IT'S GONNA EXPLODE!
H-HEY!
YOU TWO, HURRY UP! RUN!
WARNING.. WARNING.
BWOW!
AAH!

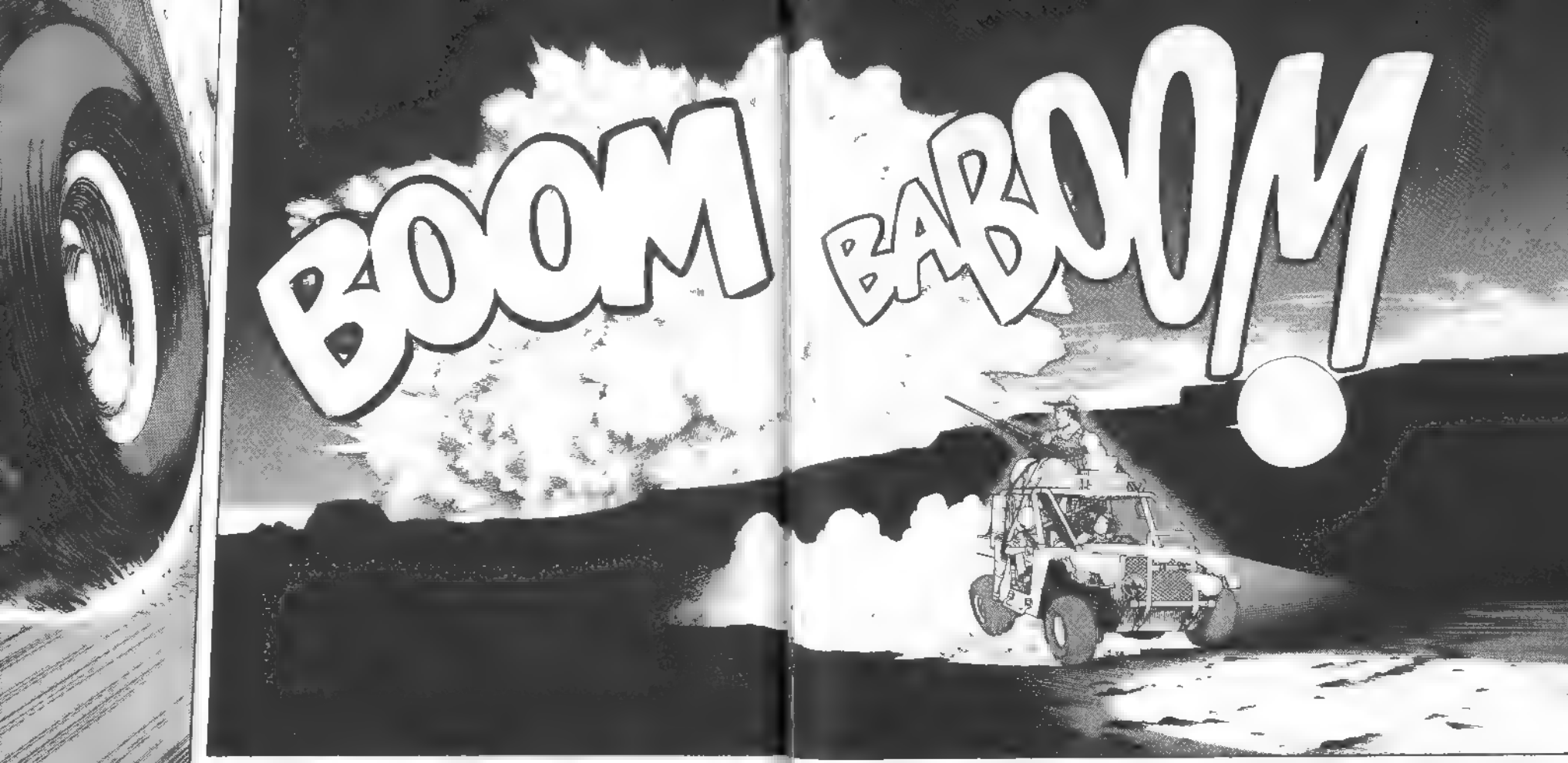
FIRST WE GET ATTACKED... NOW A MELTDOWN !?
KA-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM
HELP MEEEE... I'M MELTDOWN! FIFTEEN MINUTES LEFT!
SHAAA
EXIT
WE CAN'T RUN UNTIL YOU GET THESE RENT-A-GUNS OFF US!
SHSSSH
KA-BOOM
THAT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE THE RENT A GUN MAINTE-NANCE COMPUTER WAS DAMAGED WHEN THE TRAIN DERAILED DA SY DAISY
WHA'D YOU SAY!?
O-OH NO!
14

SSSSS
SAAAA
12
SHSSHH
RADIOBOMB
AAAAAH! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
FWSSSH
HFFF
UFFF
HFFF
UFFF
PAP PAP
FEH! TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK...!
IF MY OPPONENT'S A NUCLEAR REACTOR, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW.

CRASH
VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM
HURRY UP, ALITA! YOU CAN STILL GET AWAY!
THERE'S NO POINT GETTIN' CAUGHT IN THIS-- YOU'RE NO MERCENARY.

FAFWAP
STEEE
AH!
FUMP
STEE
STEE
STOP IT--
IT'LL
EXPLODE
!
14

!
KANGTANG
I-IT'S OFF !?
J-JUST WHO...
...IN THE WORLD ARE YOU!?
WHO AM I...?
JUST SOMEONE WHO MADE A DEAL WITH MEPHISTOPHELES...


BOOM
BABOOM!

F-FIGURE! I-I'M ALIVE !?
YOU SURE ARE!

Y-YOU'RE OUR SAVIOR! H-HAHAHA! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

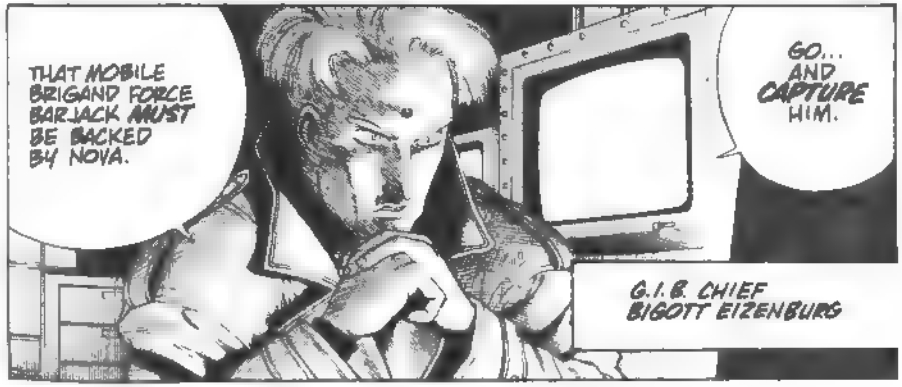
.....

THE STARS-- THEY SEEM EXTRA BRIGHT TONIGHT
HUH? THAT SHOOTIN' STAR LOOKS FUNNY.
H-HEH HEH-- DONTCHA KNOW? THAT'S A UFO!
WONDER WHERE ALITA WENT...
THE GIRL WITH THE OCTOPUS LIPS
H-HOU GOT ME...
...B-BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM HER! SHE'LL SHORTEN YOUR LIFE! R-REALLY!
SHE SAVES YOUR SKIN, AND YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT CRAP!?
TONK
B-BUT YOU KNOW...

. . . . . .
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR MISSION AS ONE OF THE TUNED, A1?
BUT...
NO BUTS, A1!
SHAAA

THE COMPLETION OF THE MISSION IS YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR DEST4 NOVA... WE FINALLY HAVE A LEAD!
TIPHARES--GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU


THAT MOBILE BRIGAND FORCE BARJACK MUST BE BACKED BY NOVA.
GO... AND CAPTURE HIM.
G.I.B. CHIEF BIGOTT EIZENBURG

ROGER..
YO! WHY DONTCHA COME DOWN AND EAT WITH US?
WHAT!?
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO WALK THIS DESERT WITH AN INJURED MAN!?
YES.
I-I HAVE TO BE ON MY WAY.
YOU TWO WILL ONLY SLOW ME DOWN, SO I'M LEAVING YOU HERE.
YERKCH..
TLONK

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU AND YOUR ATTITUDE, MISS "ANGEL OF DEATH"!
COME AND FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!
FOR A "MAN" WHO BARELY ESCAPED WITH HIS HIDE INTACT, YOU'RE PRETTY LIVELY..!
FSSH
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
KACHIK
THWUMP!

HEH, HEH, HEH.

DON'T YOU GO UNDERESTIMATIN' ME 'CAUSE I'M NOT A CYBER LIKE YOU, ALITA..!
VER UP AGAINST THE TOUGHEST OF OPPONENTS, YA HEAR ME?! THE ROUGHEST...

FIRST, LEMME SHOW YA SOMETHIN'!

SSSSSS

MEAT
FOOD
WHEEEHOO!
HU HA!
PAM!

VOOP
ZSH
KA-BOOM
CANNED-FOOD MISSILE!
SPOOO

FSH
TONK TONK
HE CAN USE THE HERTZA HAEON-- WITH A HUMAN BODY?
HEH! THAT WAS ONE OF MY ANTI-CYBER MARTIAL ARTS* TECHNIQUES...
YOU AND I KNOW IT'S IM-POSSIBLE TO BREAK THROUGH A CYBER'S ARMOR! BUT MY BLOWS GO THROUGH THE ARMOR TO THE INSIDES-- CRUSHES YOUR BRAINS!
I'VE DEFEATED THIRTY-FIVE CYBERS TO DATE! AND A THOUSAND'S MY GOAL!

*ANTI-CYBER MARTIAL ARTS: ONE OF THE ASIAN ARTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CREATED BY A JAPANESE GENERAL DURING THE NARA PERIOD (EIGHTH CENTURY), LATER UPDATED INTO A MARTIAL ART OF BRAWLING

HEH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, A1.!? LEAVE IMMEDIATELY !
!
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEIN' A BIT SCARED.
IF THAT MAN IS IN YOUR WAY, YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO SHOOT HIM!
CONTROL... LET ME HAVE SOME FUN OCCASIONALLY. GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME.
DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PENT-UP FRUSTRATION* ?
*COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ALITA AND CONTROL ARE INTERFACE... BE HEARD BY FIGURE
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO LET THESE TYPES PASS ME BY...
. . . .
ALL RIGHT, YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES.
THANKS, CHIEF BIGOTT.

SO, WHAT'S THE MATTER, ANGEL-GIRL? SCARED OF A LITTLE ACTION?
WELL, IF THE MOUNTAIN WON'T COME TO THE MOLEHILL..!
SKEECH
!!
I CAN'T STAND HER CONDESCENDING OCTOPUS LIPS!
VWOSH!

FWAP
-Spoooooo
GWAA URF...
S-SO FAST..!?

HA HA.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS A LITTLE CARELESS, THAT'S ALL.
I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET SERIOUS
ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL BE IN EFFECTIVE RANGE FOR THE "TEA!"* ATTACKS!
ONCE I GET THAT CLOSE, MY TECHNIQUES ARE UNBEATABLE!
TOOF TA-TOOF
PEEK-A-BOO!
SHOOM

*TEA!--IN FIGURE'S MARTIAL ART (KOPPO), MANY ATTACKS ARE BASED ON OPEN-PALMED STRIKES (SHODA), WHICH USE THE ELBOW AS THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN. PUNCHES LIKE ALITA'S ON THE OTHER HAND, ORIGINATE AT THE SHOULDER. BY CLOSING THE DISTANCE TO TEA! RANGE, FIGURE GAINS AN ADVANTAGE.

KA-TOOF
!
FOK
ACK!
SCEE SCEE
SPOW
FOK
ERGH!
POOMP
EWAM
GAH! MY ARMS..!
SKWAM

HEH. NOW, DO YOU GIVE UP?
TUP
GRRR...
FWOO
I WILL NOT!
SKRAA
YOU JUST WON'T QUIT, WILL YOU?
TMP
FEH! I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW YOU THE TRUE EXTENT OF MY POWER!

SHAAAA ZAAAAA
C-COLD I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THOSE CL-CLOUDS ARE LOOKING. .
...ST-STORM'S COMING IN... OH, PLEASE, DON'T COME...
SHAAAA
FSHT SPSHT
WH- WHAT'S TAKING FIGURE SO LONG..?
H-HE'D BETTER NOT BE H-HAVING FUN WITH THAT GIRL...
SPLORK
WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'VE LOST!
ZUHN
HEH, HEH, HEH. DON'T YOU SEE? YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME...

HEH! I WON'T LOSE.
SPAK
KRAK
AAK
PAIN
HEH, HEH, HEH. YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH.
DO I HAVE TO KILL YOU FOR YOU TO UNDER-STAND!?
SLAP
TAP
HE'S UNBELIEVABLE
PHEW
BOOM

UHAARGH!
I'M NOT BEATEN YET!
SHOOP
SH-SHE'S LONG GONE!
TH-THAT GIRL HAS NO BLOOD OR TEARS...SHE'S LEFT US OUT H-HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...WITH ONLY A PITTANCE OF FOOD AND WATER...
HOW DARE YOU RUN OUT ON OUR FIGHT, ALITA!?
VRWOOOOO

FIGURE FOUR..
.WHAT A NUT
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAD FUN, A1.
. . . .
NOW LEAVE THAT SECTOR, IMMEDIATELY!
DOPPLER RADAR HAS PICKED UP DANGEROUS WEATHER FORMATIONS IN YOUR AREA
THE HEAT FROM THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND THE COOL WESTERLY WINDS HAVE COLLIDED YOU'RE IN FOR ONE HELL OF A STORM.
THE HIGH PRESSURE AND THE RAINS HAVE COLLIDED--
--CREATING A GIANT TORNADO!
RADIOACTIVE THUNDERSHOWERS?
NO...

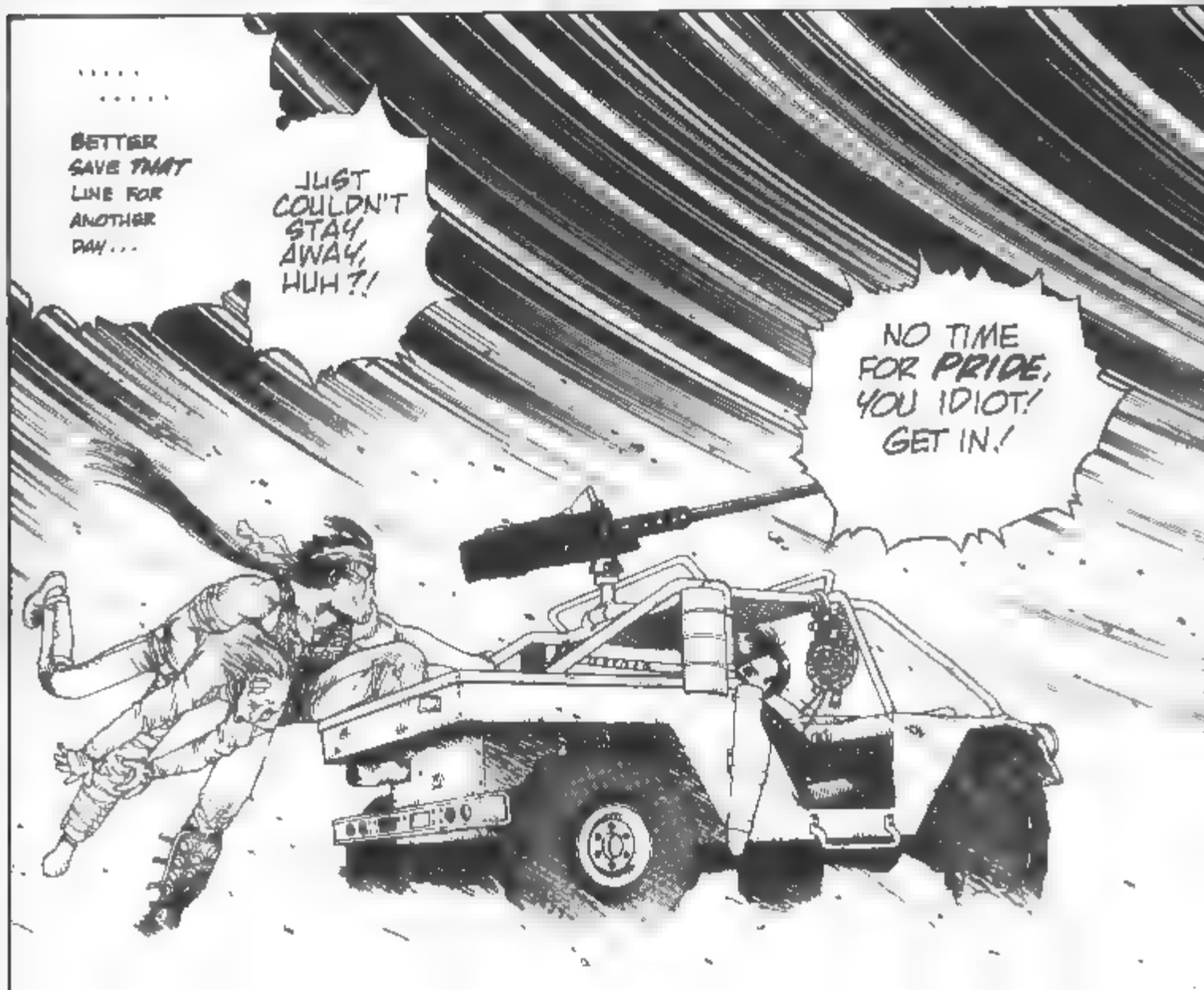
SHWOOOOO

N-NAA AA AAH!
F-FIGURE!
THIS JUST ISN'T OUR DAY! BANDITS, MELTDOWNS, AND NOW A TORNADO!?
SHOOM
GAAAH! WE'RE DONE FOR!

SKREESH
!?
GET IN!

HURRY UP AND CLIMB ON!

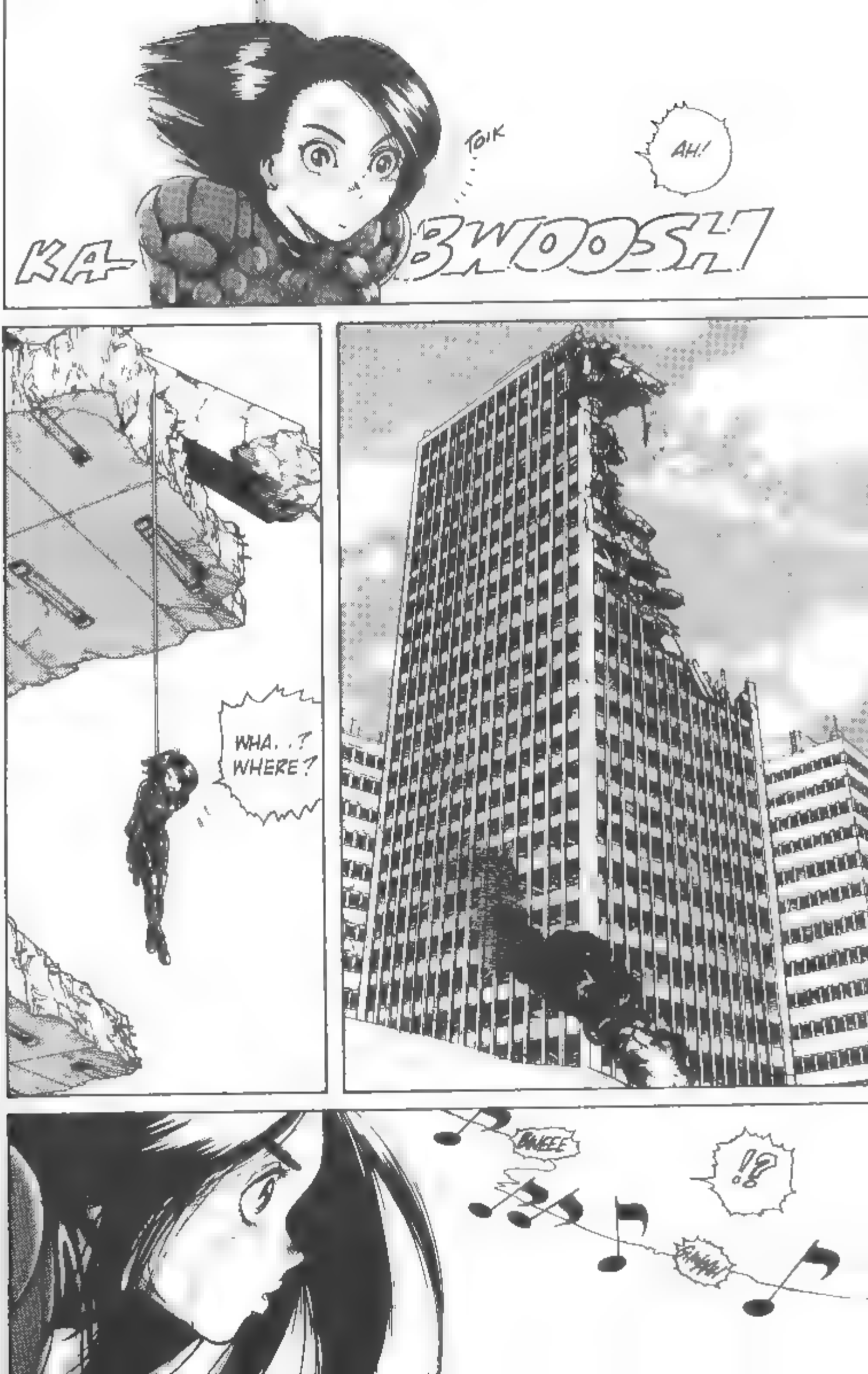
NO THANKS!
I DON'T NEED YOUR-
F-FIGURE!


.....
.....
BETTER SAVE THAT LINE FOR ANOTHER DAY...
JUST COULDN'T STAY AWAY, HUH?!
NO TIME FOR PRIDE, YOU IDIOT! GET IN!

FWOOM
HANG ON TIGHT!
SHWOOM

YOU FOOL! HOW DARE YOU IGNORE MY ORDERS...!?
PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER TO RESCUE A COUPLE OF LOWLY SURFACE DWELLERS...!
CHIEF BIGOTT, TIPHAREANS AREN'T THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
I'VE KEPT QUIET UNTIL NOW-- BUT NO MORE!
HOW DO YOU THINK ALL OF YOU IN TIPHARES EVEN SURVIVE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!?
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH, A1!
WHO IS IT THAT MAKES YOUR FOOD, SEWS YOUR CLOTHES, DISPOSES OF YOUR WASTE, AND FIGHTS YOUR BLOODY BATTLES!?
IT'S THOSE OF US ON THE SURFACE!
YOU FLOAT ON OUR BACKS-- AND I WON'T TAKE YOUR ORDERS!

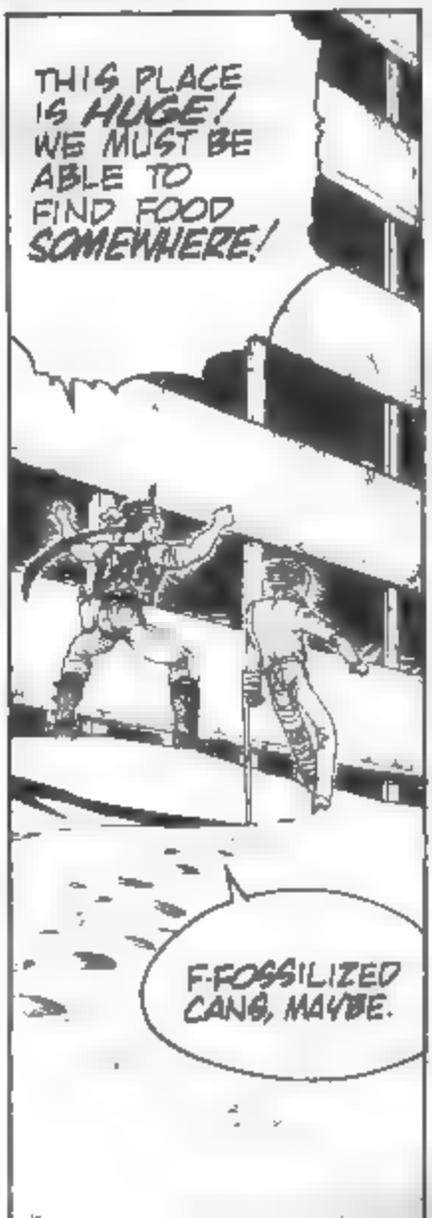
TOOMP
KATOOMP
L-LOOK OUT FOR THAT BOULDER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? SWERVE!
HUH!?
CRAAC
WAAAAH!
SKOOO
AI!
ZAAAAAA
RESPOND, AI!
BAM
ARGH!
HOW COULD THIS.

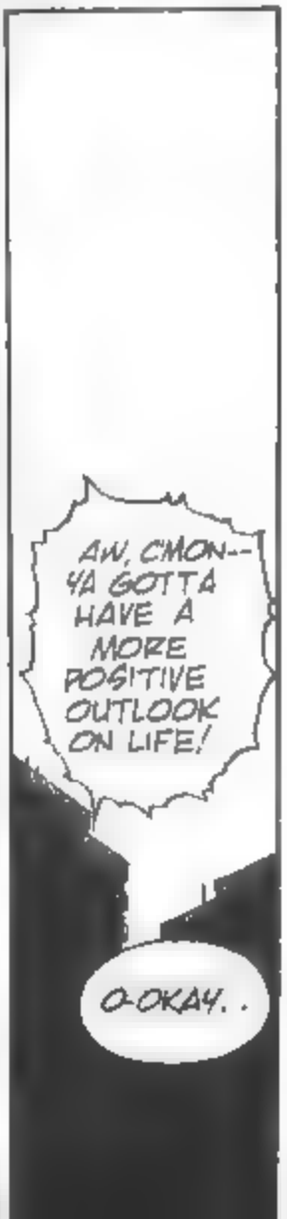

KA-
TOIK
AH!
BWOOSH!
WHA..?
WHERE?
NNEEE
!?

HEH, HEH, HEH. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE AWAKE, ALITA
MY HARMONICA!
TALK ABOUT CLOSE CALLS! WHEN I CAME TO, THE JEEP WAS BARELY HANGIN' ONTO THE SIDE OF THIS BUILDING...
...IF I HADN'T GOTTEN EVERYONE OFF SO QUICKLY, WE'D ALL BE DEAD.
"IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH ME...
...YOU'LL GO TO AN EARLY GRAVE."
BUT SEE? WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AREN'T WE...?
GWA HA HA
STOP KIDDING AROUND AND PULL ME UP!
L-LET'S PULL HER UP, FIGURE...
WHAT'RE YOU SCARED OF!?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, MISS "MAYBE-I'LL-SAVE-YOU-NO-I-THINK-I'LL-LEAVE-YOU-BEHIND"!
BUT I'VE HAD IT WITH BEING TREATED LIKE SOME TOY!

SURE, YOU CAN PROB'LY BREAK THOSE WIRES EASILY ENOUGH...
BUT EVEN WITH YOUR CYBER BODY, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY SURVIVE A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHILL OUT AWHILE?!
EGR...
THAT UNGRATEFUL..! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT I PUT ON THE LINE TO RESCUE HIM
CONTROL! DO YOU COPY, CONTROL?
DAMN! I CAN'T RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT...!
HEY! IS THAT BANDIT-LEADER, KNUCKLEHEAD, SAFE?!
COME T'THINK OF IT..
D-DIDN'T SEE IT IN THE J-JEEP.
LOOKS LIKE WE DROPPED THE BRAIN BUCKET SOMEPLACE! GIVE UP ON IT!

PLIP
PLORP
HEE, HEE! YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND WATER IN PLACES LIKE THIS.
WELL, WELL! LEAVE IT TO A VET
S-SINCE IT'S A SPRING, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RADIATION.
OOH


THIS PLACE IS HUGE! WE MUST BE ABLE TO FIND FOOD SOMEWHERE!
F-FOSSILIZED CANS, MAYBE.


AW, CMON-- YA GOTTA HAVE A MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE!
O-OKAY. .

I'M STARVIN'. THERE HASTA BE A RATTLESNAKE OR SOMETHIN' AROUND..
JUST DON'T LOOK AT ME!
SQUEEK
HEY! THAT MIGHT BE TASTY!
WAH!
F-FIGURE!
SKWASH
!
HEY! CHECK IT OUT, YOLG!
LIKE I SAID-- THERE'S A TON OF FOOD HERE!
SQUEEK
TALK ABOUT ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT!
TH-THESE CANS-- BRAND NEW...?
I G-GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

SHAAA

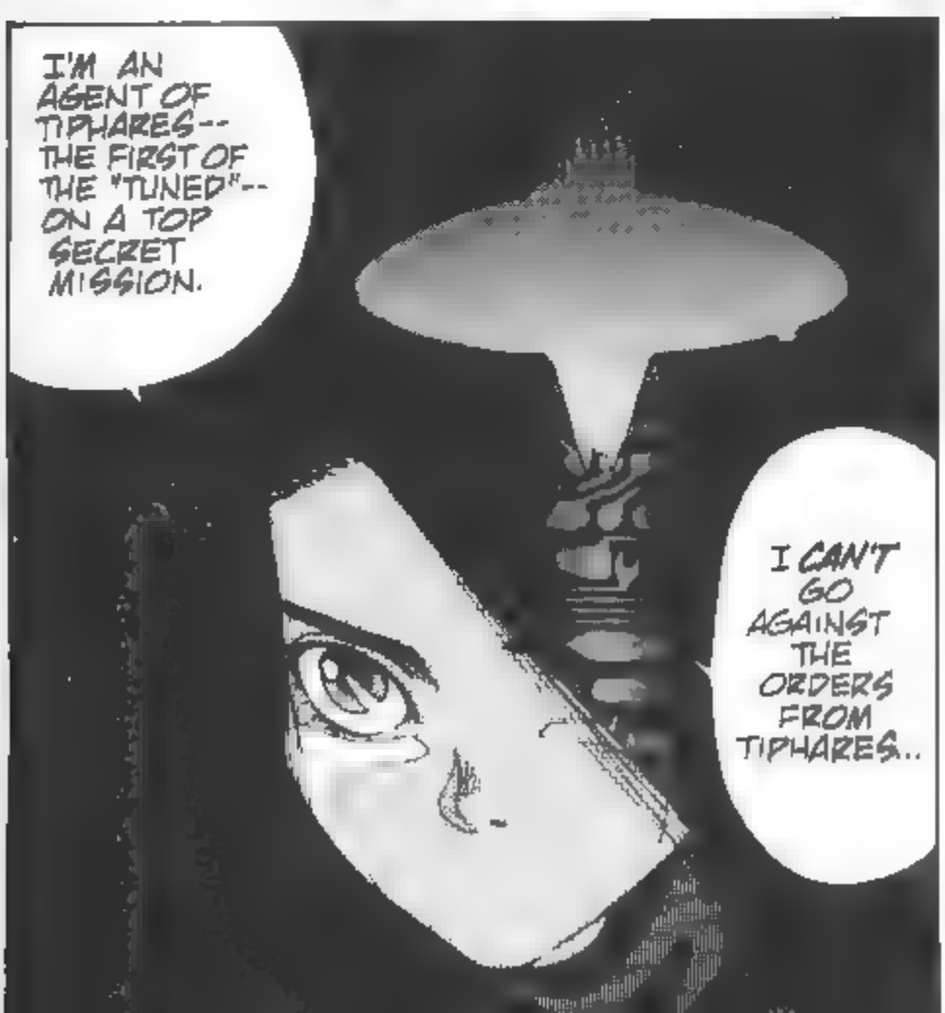
RWOOR

SO, HAVE YOU COOLED OFF A

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY
TASTY CORNED BEEF

FIGURE...
..I-I'M SORRY

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY
LOOK, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.


I'M AN AGENT OF TIPHARES-- THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED"-- ON A TOP SECRET MISSION.
I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE ORDERS FROM TIPHARES..

ARE YOU FROM UP THERE?

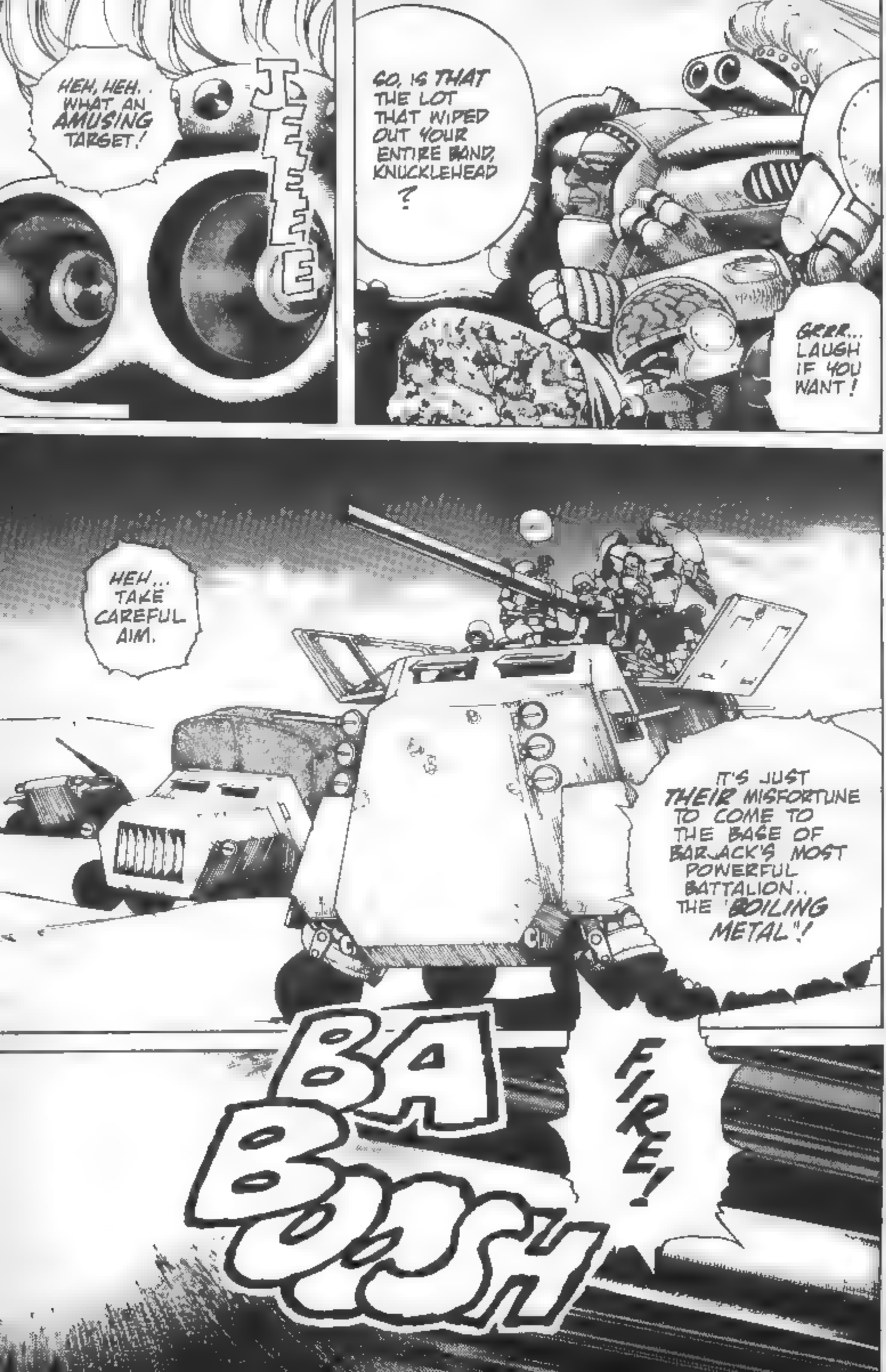
NO...

IN A BOOK I READ A LONG TIME AGO, IT SAID, "IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A SLAVE YOU CAN EITHER BUY ONE OR SAVE THE LIFE OF ONE."
AND TIPHARES SAVED MY LIFE.
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I WAS EVEN BORN...
WHERE WERE YOU BORN?
.....WELL .
PROBABLY MARS...BUT I'M NOT SURE.
HMM.
WHAT ABOUT YOU ?
HEH, HEH, HEH. MY HOME IS A REAL NICE PLACE.
IT'S CALLED ALHAMBRA. IT'S A FISHING VILLAGE WHERE THE SEA HAS SWELLED UP, HALFWAY COVERING THE RUINS.

EVERY FEW YEARS, A TWENTY-METER-LONG SEA SERPENT WANDERS INTO OUR BAY, COMING AFTER THE SEALS
THE WHOLE VILLAGE WORKS TOGETHER WITH HARPOONS, AND THERE'S A CONTEST TO SEE WHO SPEARS IT FIRST. IT'S QUITE A SIGHT!
THE OCEAN.. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT SOMETIME.
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE WALKED THE DRY PLAINS ALL MY LIFE
BEST YOU DON'T SEE IT. YOU'LL JUST RUST.
...INSENSITIVE JERK...
WERE! SAY, "AAAH"!
AAAHH

Mmm!
.....
MMF MMF
GLOMP
CHURF
SHA
YOU CREEP!
BWAH!
WHOA, I'M GONNA FALL!
TWOK
SHEEEE
GRRK!

UH, YES?
YOU!
IF YOU DON'T PULL ME UP RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO KILL THIS IDIOT, FIGURE, RIGHT HERE!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO
...I'M NOT MUCH USE WITH MY BROKEN ARM.
DAMN. I FORGOT..
D-BUT WHAT?
DO SOMETHING!


HEH, HEH.. WHAT AN AMUSING TARGET!
JEEEE
SO, IS THAT THE LOT THAT WIPED OUT YOUR ENTIRE BAND, KNUCKLEHEAD ?
GRRR... LAUGH IF YOU WANT!
HEH... TAKE CAREFUL AIM.
IT'S JUST THEIR MISFORTUNE TO COME TO THE BASE OF BARJACK'S MOST POWERFUL BATTALION.. THE 'BOILING METAL'!
BA BOOSH
FIRE!

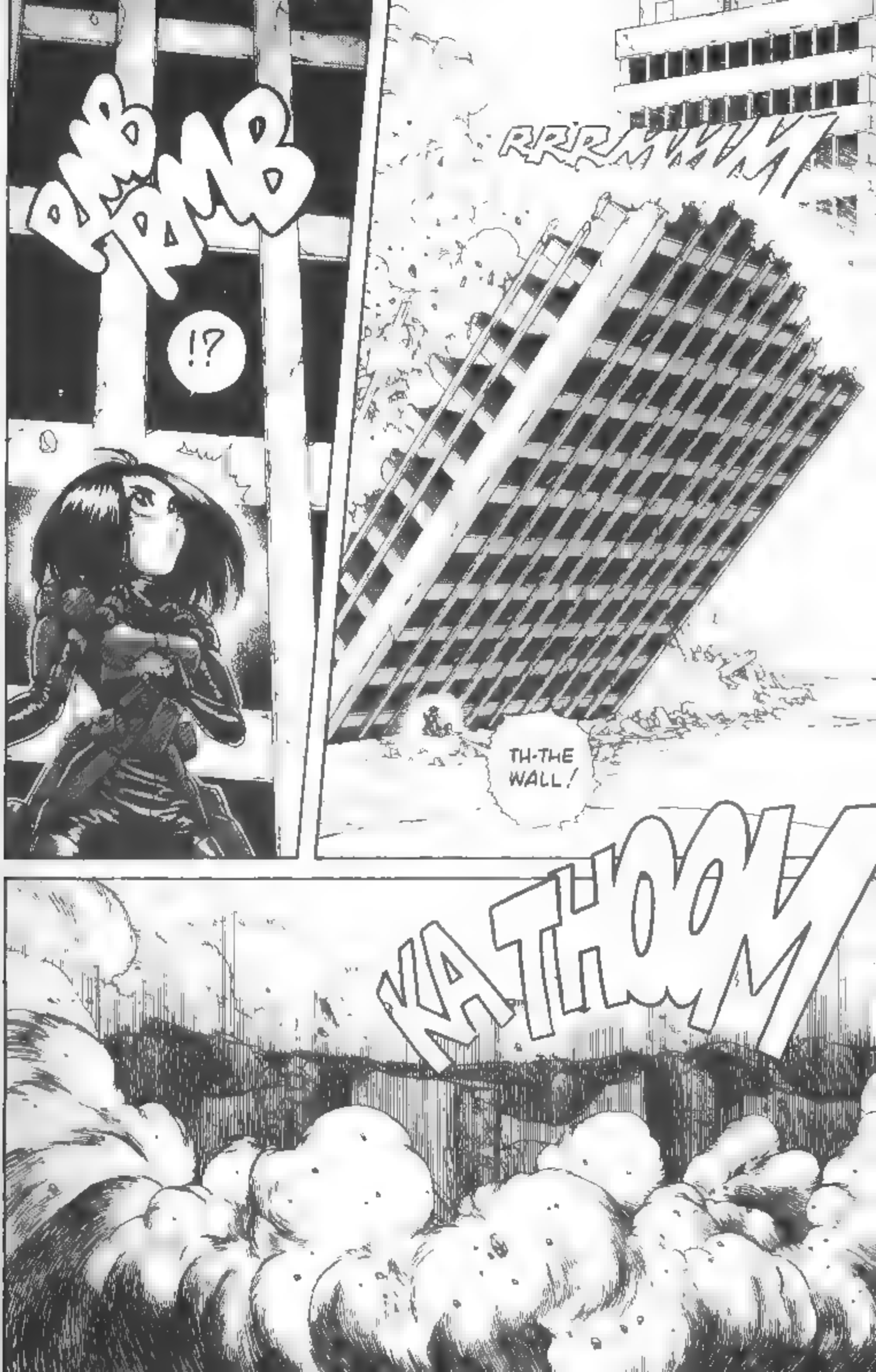
HELL BEAST

Journey 4: Dog Eat Dog

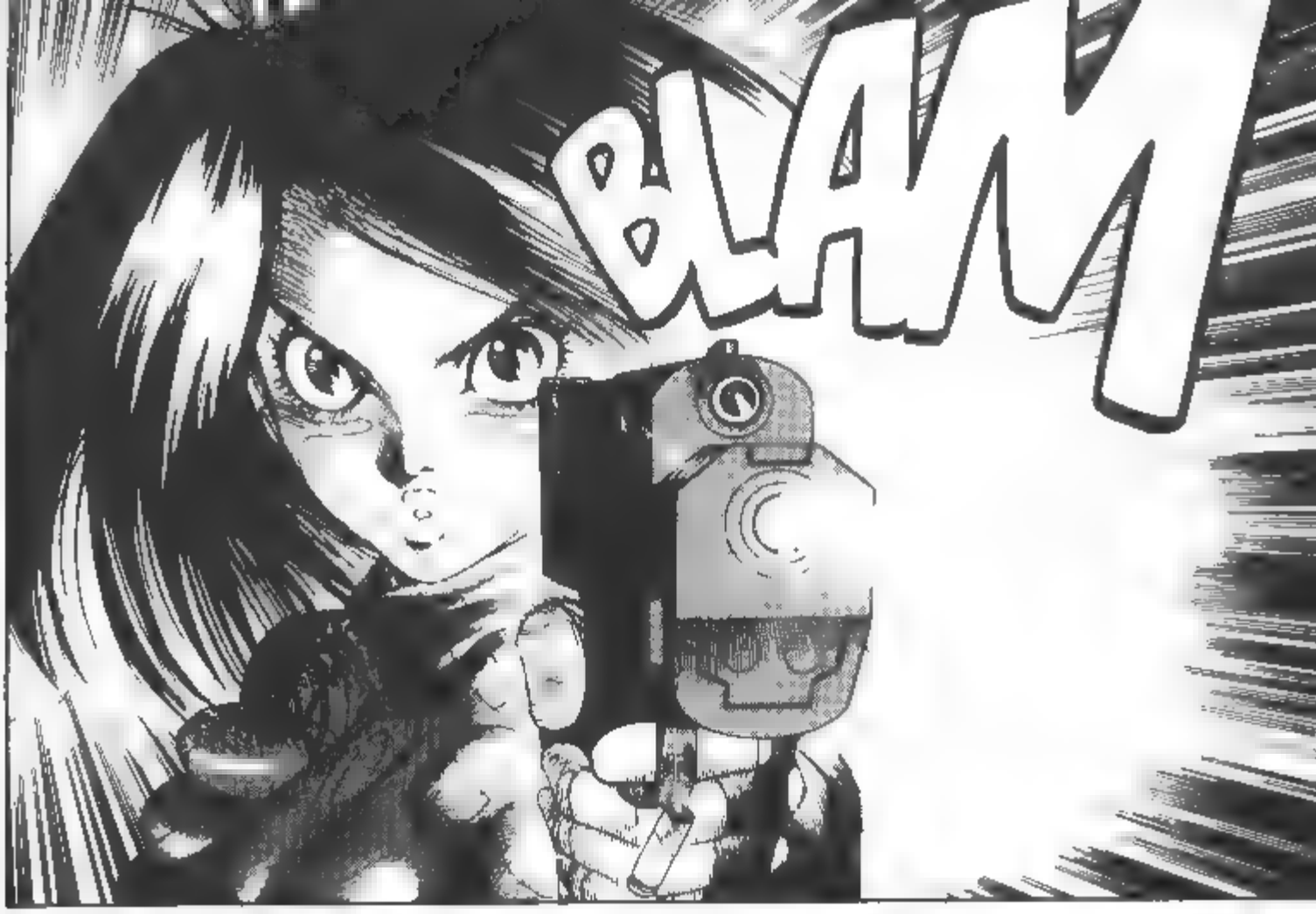
KABOOM
YAH!

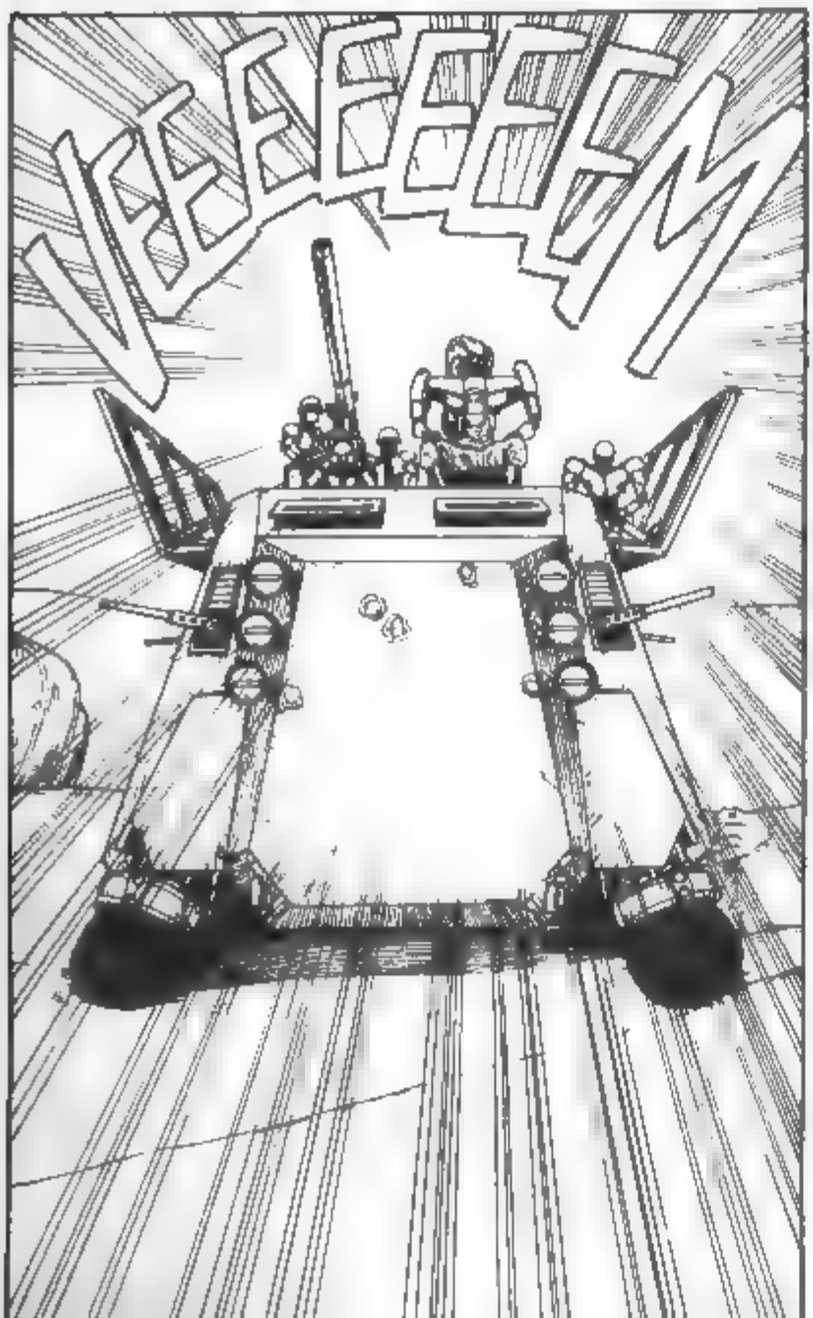
BOOSH
YOU MISSED, IDIOT!
FIRE AT WILL!
ERGH.
GWAPAH!!
SKRANG

TUMP
SO TROUBLESOME...
SKREE
STRIP
STAB
WHIP
THIP
MONOFILAMENT WIRE!
TONK
KRACK
ZEEEZEEEZEEE
ZEEE
EEEEEEE!
ZEEE ZEEE ZEEE
BOOM
PFFT
KAHWOO
U-UNHH... W-WE MADE IT?


PMB PMB
!?
RRRMMMM
TH-THE WALL!
KA-THOOM

WE DID IT, COLONEL! THEY'VE BEEN FLATTENED!
HMM...
!
SSSSA!
AAAA
TOOF
WHAT LUCK! AN OPEN WINDOW LANDED ON US
Koff Koff
KAKREK

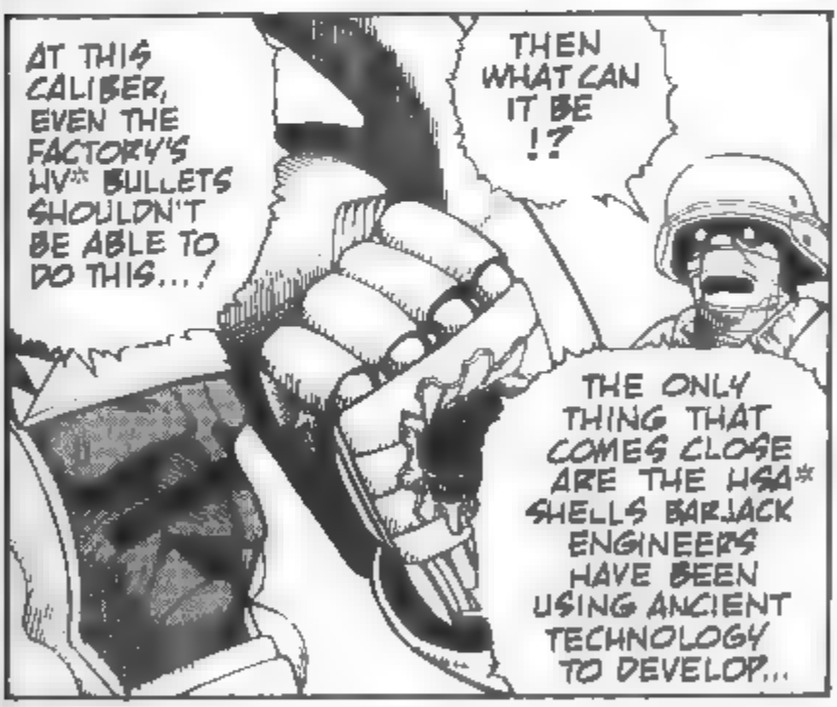

BLAM

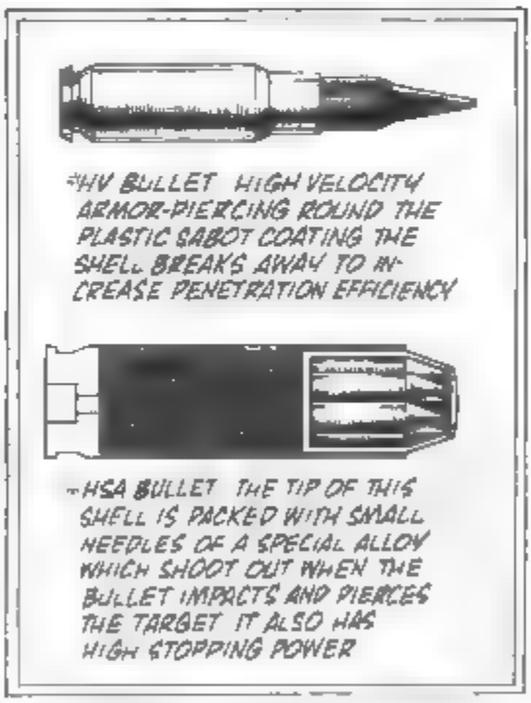

VEEEEEEEEM

ZAA
WOOM

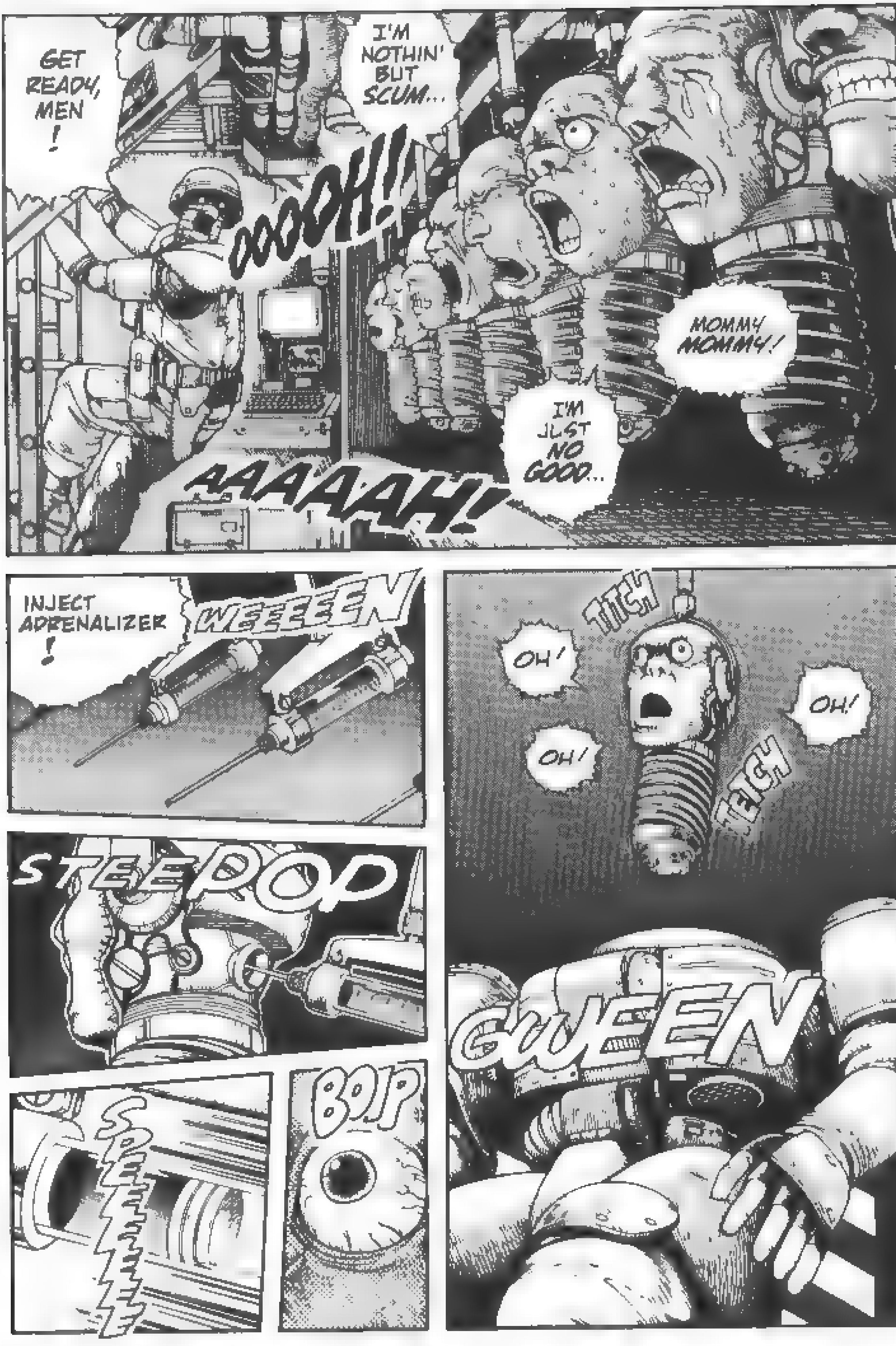
SPLAK
!?
WHAT !?
HER BULLET WAS ABLE TO PIERCE MY TITANIUM-COATED HAND AT THIS RANGE...
...AND SHE LAUNCHED A COUNTERATTACK INSTANTLY! SHE'S NOT A RAIL MERCENARY!
Tch!
BUCCABUCCA
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BOOM
KABLAM!
HAHAHA!
AHHH!


AT THIS CALIBER, EVEN THE FACTORY'S HV* BULLETS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS...!
THEN WHAT CAN IT BE !?
THE ONLY THING THAT COMES CLOSE ARE THE HSA* SHELLS BARJACK ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN USING ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP...

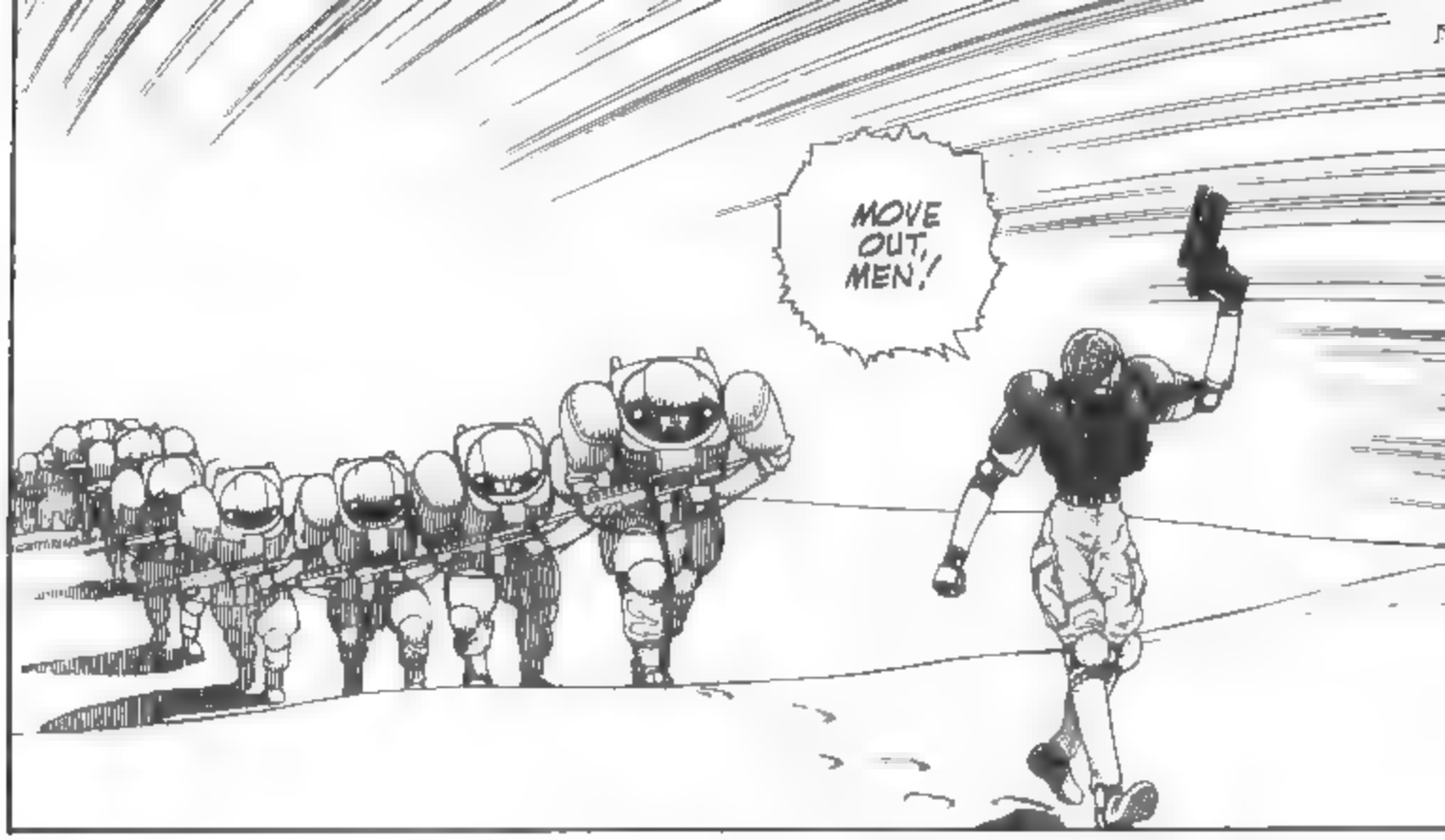

*HV BULLET HIGH VELOCITY ARMOR-PIERCING ROUND THE PLASTIC SABOT COATING THE SHELL BREAKS AWAY TO INCREASE PENETRATION EFFICIENCY
*HSA BULLET THE TIP OF THIS SHELL IS PACKED WITH SMALL NEEDLES OF A SPECIAL ALLOY WHICH SHOOT OUT WHEN THE BULLET IMPACTS AND PIERCES THE TARGET IT ALSO HAS HIGH STOPPING POWER

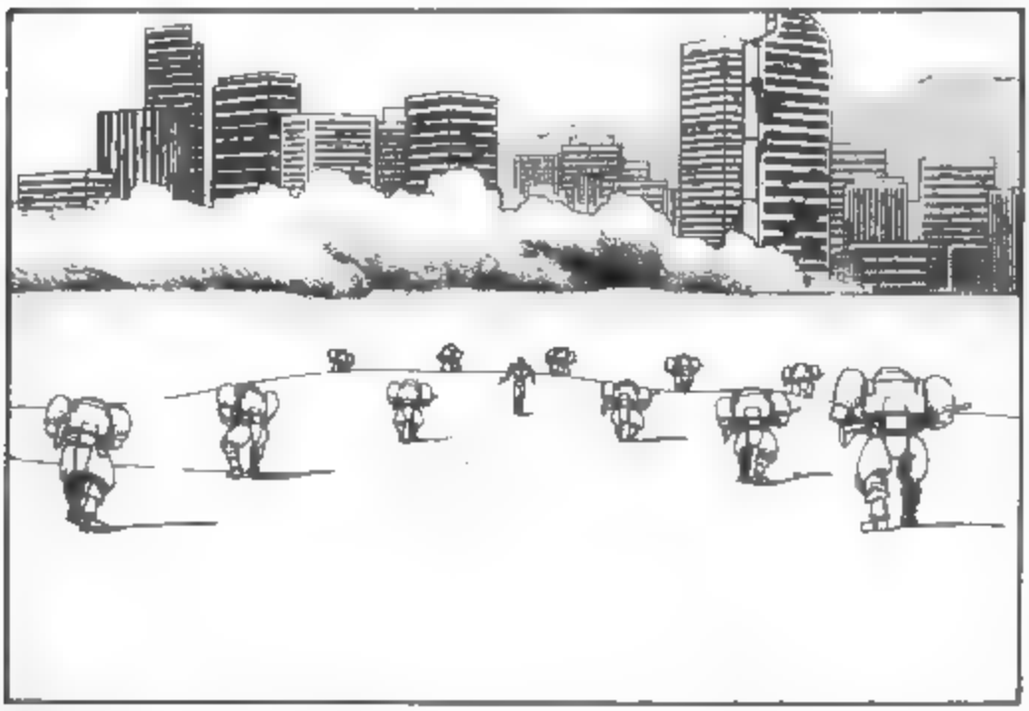
WE MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION... RUMOR SAYS AN AGENT OF TIPHARES NICKNAMED THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" HAS BEEN CHECKING UP ON US...
...IF ONE OF THEM IS THE AGENT, WE MUST STOP THEM HERE! UNDERSTOOD, SERGEANT?
YESSIR!


GET READY, MEN !
I'M NOTHIN' BUT SCUM...
OOOOH!!
MOMMY MOMMY!
I'M JUST NO GOOD...
AAAAAH!
INJECT ADRENALIZER !
WEEEEEN
TITCH
OH!
OH!
OH!
TETCH
STEEPOP
GWEEN
BOIP

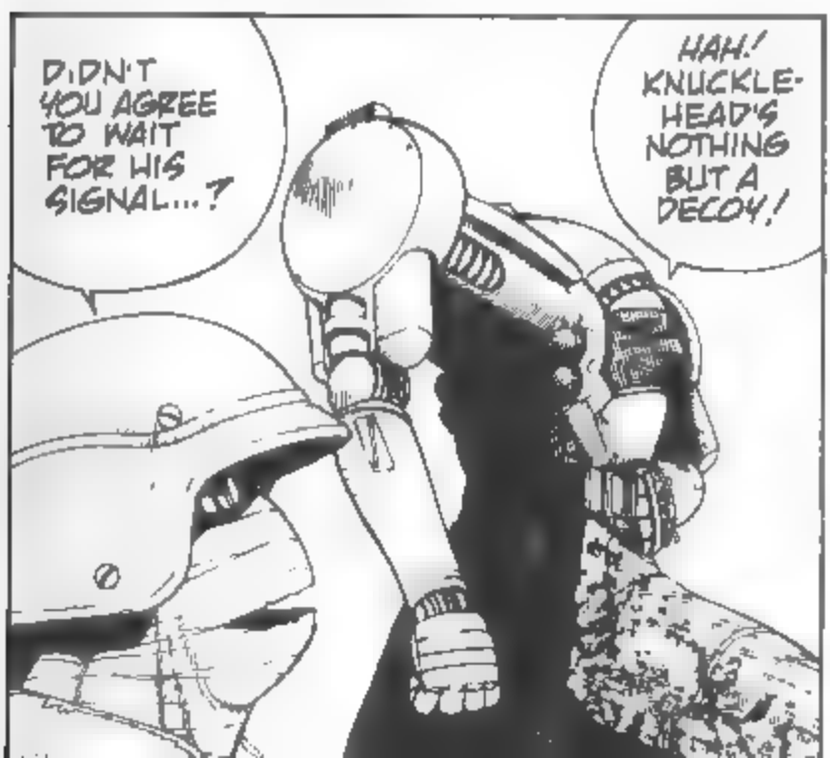
SPWEE
SPWEE
SPWEE
SPWEE
YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE SOLDIERS IN THE UNIVERSE!
NOTHING CAN STOP YOU!
NOW GO, MY DOGS OF WAR!
AAAAH! FEELS LIKE I'M ON FIRE!

BOOM
COLONEL... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!
HM?
BOOM
I STILL WANT TO TAKE MY REVENGE ON THEM-- FOR THE MEN I LOST.
LET ME BE THE ONE TO FINISH THEM OFF!
...
VERY WELL. I FIND YOUR DEVOTION TO YOUR POSITION AS SQUAD COMMANDER ADMIRABLE.
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE PLATOON OF MEN. SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO, KNUCKLEHEAD!
I AM IN YOUR DEBT!


MOVE OUT, MEN!



DEPLOY MORE TROOPS TO FLANK THE CITY...
SIR?


DIDN'T YOU AGREE TO WAIT FOR HIS SIGNAL...?
HAH! KNUCKLE-HEAD'S NOTHING BUT A DECOY!

IF WE ARE UP AGAINST AN AGENT OF TIPHARES, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN.
THE LESS THE WORTH OF A MAN, THE GREATER HIS PRIDE...

THE SHELLING HAS STOPPED.
YOU THINK THEY'RE BARJACK GUYS AS WELL?
HFF
HFF
AAAAH! UNGH!
GOT ME...MY COMM-LINK TO TIPHARES ISN'T WORKING, SO I'M NOT RECEIVING ANY NEW DATA MY ABILITIES AS A TUNED ARE HALVED.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S CERTAIN...
...IS THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A LIFE-OR-DEATH BATTLE SOON.
HEH...! NOW WE'LL SEE SOME ACTION!
N-NO.../ I-I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYMORE! / I-I CAN'T DO IT!
I-I WANT TO GO HOME!
GRRR
FLIP
FLOP

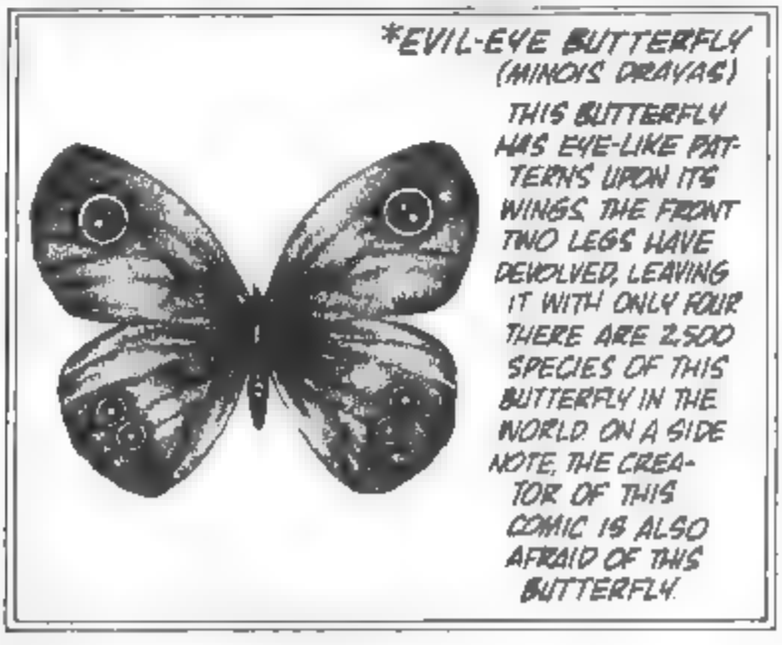
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE COWARD!
FOOMP
AHHH!
FIGURE...
CUT IT OUT.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY LIVELY, ALITA...
...DO YOU ENJOY KILLING THAT MUCH?

YES! I LOVE BEING IN BATTLE! I LOVE THE MOMENT WHEN MY BODY STOPS BEING A MACHINE AND BECOMES A PART OF ME!
MY BLOOD BOILS AND MY MIND GOES ALL WHITE! IT'S AN INCREDIBLE HIGH! THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK-- ONLY ACTION!
WELL.. I LIKE FIGHTING BETTER THAN GETTING THREE MEALS A DAY, SURE... BUT I HATE WARS!
AND THAT INCLUDES GIRLS THAT FIGHT IN THEM!
.....

...YOU'S GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITIN' FOR HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF HIM!
UNLIKE YOU, HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO LOSE!
UNH...
TOOT
H-HMPH! THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM...
I WAS PROBABLY A GUN OR SOMETHING IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE...
PIP

YAAAAAAAA
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM KA-BOOSH
HMM !?

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT !?
UFF.. HFF.
TIKKA TEK
KRIK
KREK
I-I CAN'T HANDLE THOSE *EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLIES..!


*EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLY (MINOIS DRAVAS)
THIS BUTTERFLY HAS EYE-LIKE PATTERNS UPON ITS WINGS. THE FRONT TWO LEGS HAVE DEVOLVED, LEAVING IT WITH ONLY FOUR. THERE ARE 2,500 SPECIES OF THIS BUTTERFLY IN THE WORLD. ON A SIDE NOTE, THE CREATOR OF THIS COMIC IS ALSO AFRAID OF THIS BUTTERFLY.

OH, NO! I GAVE OUR POSITION AWAY--WE HAVE TO HIDE!
DAMN! I'VE USED UP ALL MY BULLETS. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
IT'S TOO LATE...

HA! THE FOOLS! TO GIVE AWAY THEIR POSITION LIKE THAT...
...THEY MUST WANT TO DIE BY MY HAND! JUST WAIT!
BMB
BMB
COMMANDER, YOU SHOULD STAY UNDER COVER.
I WON'T HIDE FROM THEM.
DAMN AMATEUR BRAVADO..
LET'S DITCH HIM!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
BOOM
IGNORE HIM.
LOOP
BAM

BOOM
TUK TUK
BOINK
BEEP
SPLASH

SPOOM
HRGH!
BUP
BIP
YAH!
KABWAM
FOOF

SKOOSH
FWAK
WING
BUDDA BUDDA DA DA
YAAARGH!
TOING
WUP
!
SKIRSHT
SPLOT

HSSSSSS
STILL... NEED... MORE!
GHAAH!
MORE! UNTIL IT'S ALL... WHITE!

KRANG!
BOM BOM BOM BOM!
POOM POOM!
HFF
UFF
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER, FIGURE? L-LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

I LOVE FREEDOM-- AND DURING MY TRAVELS I'VE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS...
...WONDERING JUST HOW FAR MY CONCEPT OF FREEDOM WOULD TAKE ME.

AND UP TILL NOW, I THOUGHT BEING ALONE WAS THE PATH TO TRUE FREEDOM...
BUT SEEING ALITA...WHO'S REALLY ALONE... HAS MADE ME REALIZE THAT THAT WASN'T FREEDOM.

FREEDOM IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE RUDDER OF YOUR LIFE.
SO I'M GOING BACK!
D-DON'T BE FOOLISH! N-NO POINT IN TR-TRYING TO BE A HERO!
T-THOSE GUYS ARE ALL M-MONSTERS FIGHTING EACH OTHER. I-IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DDO WITH US!
YOU FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER.
BOM BOM BOM
H-HEY, FIGURE...! WAIT!
D-DON'T LEAVE ME OUT HERE LIKE THIS!
H-HUH ?
FOOM
SKIK

UWAAAAGH!
SPLARP
KA-KESH
WUMP
WAH!?

FESH
BRAFAK
SWAK
SPOOSH
HAH !
CHIK

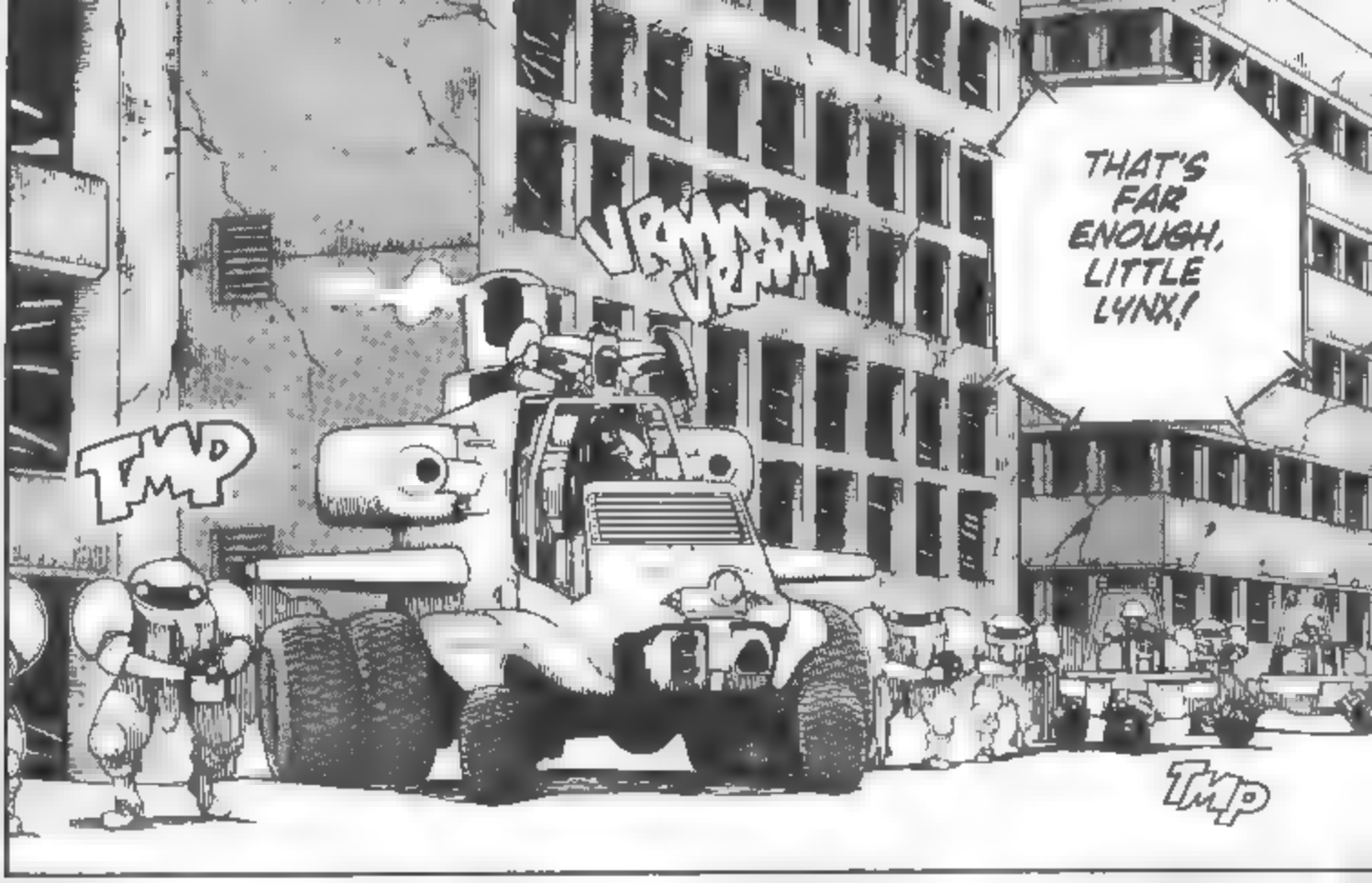
FWANG
GYAAAH!
SHOOM
SLAK
SPASH
TASH

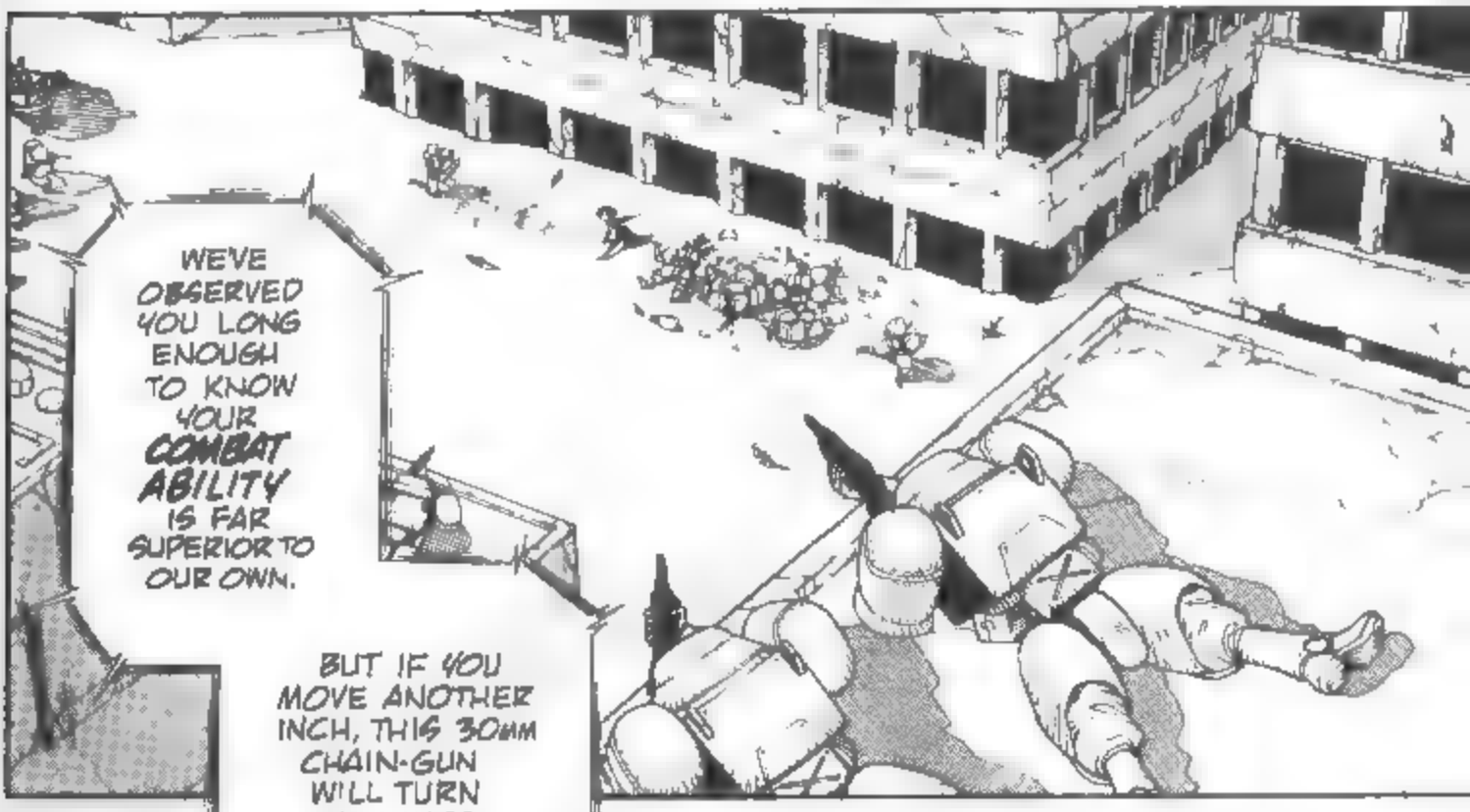
HIYAH!!
SLOW
YAH!
GLEH!
HAAA! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
!
BMP

YOU'RE DEAD, GIRL!
CHOP
CHING
YIIPP
SRWAM
HEH...

WH-WHAT...?!
SKOK
MY FINGER... A KNIFE!?
STISH
FWANG
SKANG

AAAARGH!
HAHAA!
KREK
CHK
!
WHAM
BLAM
BLAM
WOOSH
?


VRRUUMM
VRRUUMM
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, LITTLE LYNX!
TMP
TMP


WE'VE OBSERVED YOU LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW YOUR COMBAT ABILITY IS FAR SUPERIOR TO OUR OWN.
BUT IF YOU MOVE ANOTHER INCH, THIS 30mm CHAIN-GUN WILL TURN YOU INTO MEAT SAUCE!

BUT, COLONEL-- WHY...!? I DIDN'T CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT LUCKY, KNUCKLE
GYAHAHA
WAHOHO
NNHAHAHA EEEHIHIHI!
GHAHAHAHA!
PAT PAT
AIN'T YOU LUCKY, KNUCKLE-HEAD!
ERRGH! YOU USED ME--AS BAIT!
HSSSSSS
HSSSSSS
HSSSSSS
I-I-I WANT TO SH-SHOOT, S-S-SIR!
SLUKP
I-I CAN'T HOLD BACK...!
RELAX! HER BRAIN MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION WHICH COULD PROVE USEFUL.

UNGH
!?
ZOOON
TEKKA TEKKA TEKKA TEKKA
SPLASH
GYAH!
NOW, ALITA!

POOM
POOM
POOM
BAM
BAM
BAM
I'VE LOST SIGHT OF THE TARGET !
LAY DOWN SOME COVER FIRE AND RETREAT !
HIYAAH!
TEKKA-TEKKA-TEKKA

LIKE YOLG SAID, I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO TIPHARES, THE FACTORY, OR BARJACK!
BUT I WON'T LET YOU HARM ALITA!
TEKKA TEKKA
HA HA HA HA!
ARACHNO—
--ACTIVATE!
RETREAT! RETREAT!
TEKKATEKKA
BLAM BLAM
VRRRRMMM
TIT TIT TIT
PING
BOOOOOM

BWOOF!
WAH!
MORE ENEMIES-- BEHIND US!?
BLAM BLAM
WHEN DID THEY LAY DOWN BOOBY TRAPS!?
ARACHNO ※
(AS STORED IN PACK)
ONE OF THE SPECIAL DEVICES USED BY THE TUNED. A TIPHAREAN INSECTOID BOMB, THE ARACHNO CAN BE USED AS A BOOBY TRAP VIA INTERNAL PROGRAMMING OR REMOTE COMMANDS, OR FOR OTHER TACTICAL USES
MISSILE BEES!
THWIP
FIRE!
VROOM
BLLLLT
BZZZZZZ...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
PING

VEEEW

VEEN

BWOOM!

KABOOSH

MISSILE BEE ※

ANOTHER OF THE SPECIAL DEVICES ISSUED TO THE TUNED. A BEE-SHAPED CYBORG MISSILE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT TARGET SELECTION, AS WELL AS PRECISE TARGETING.

C-COULD THIS BE...

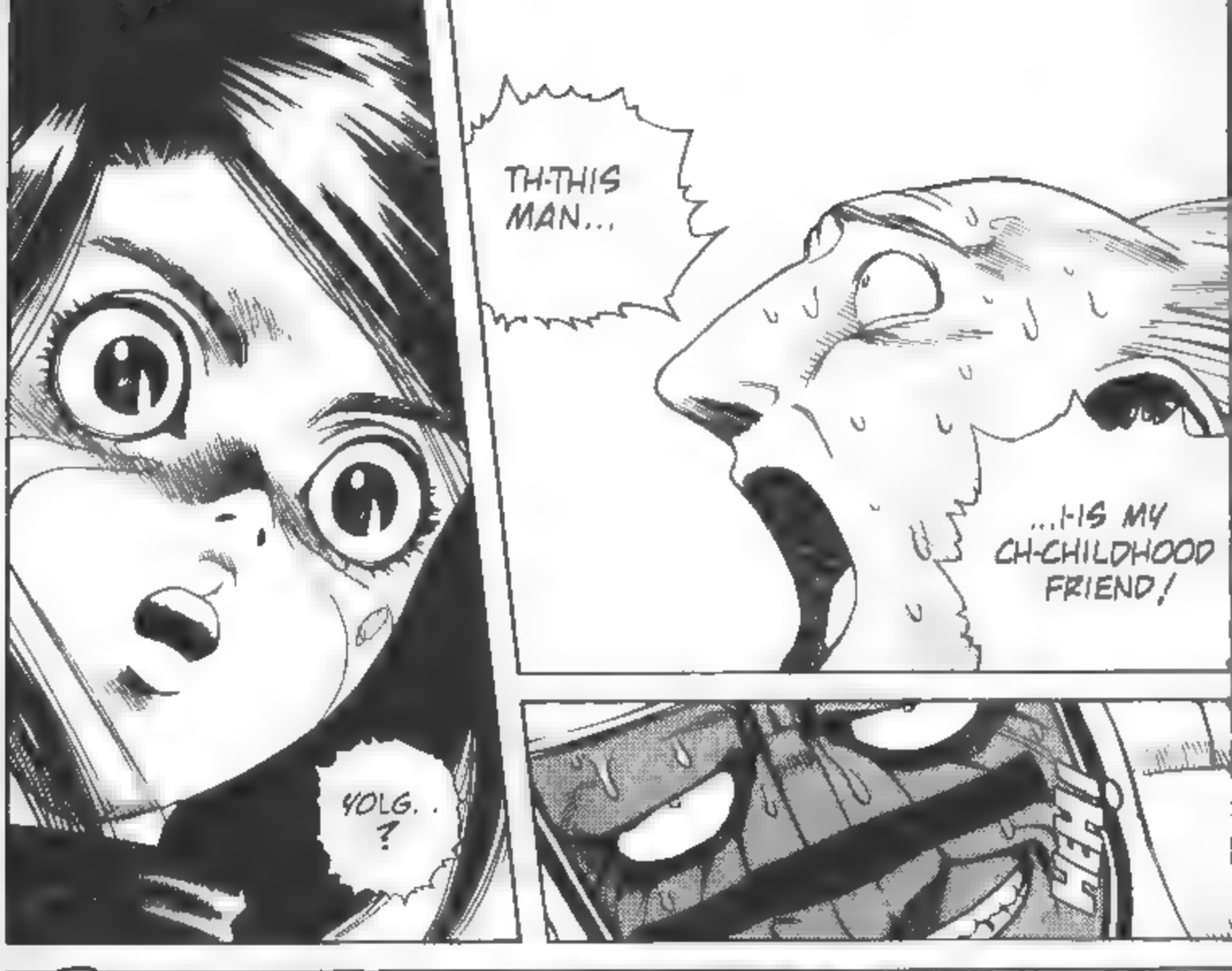
BOOM

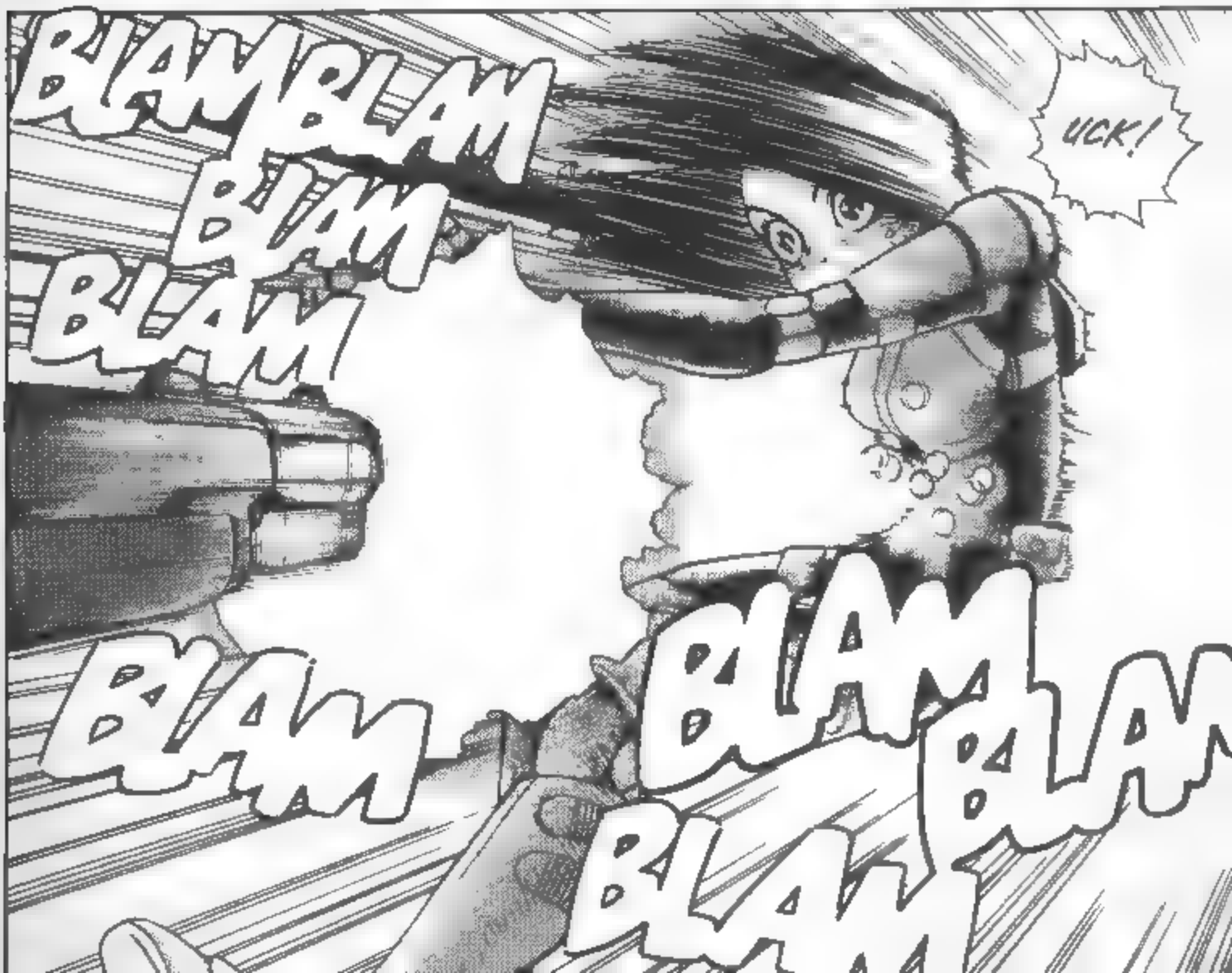
...THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" !?

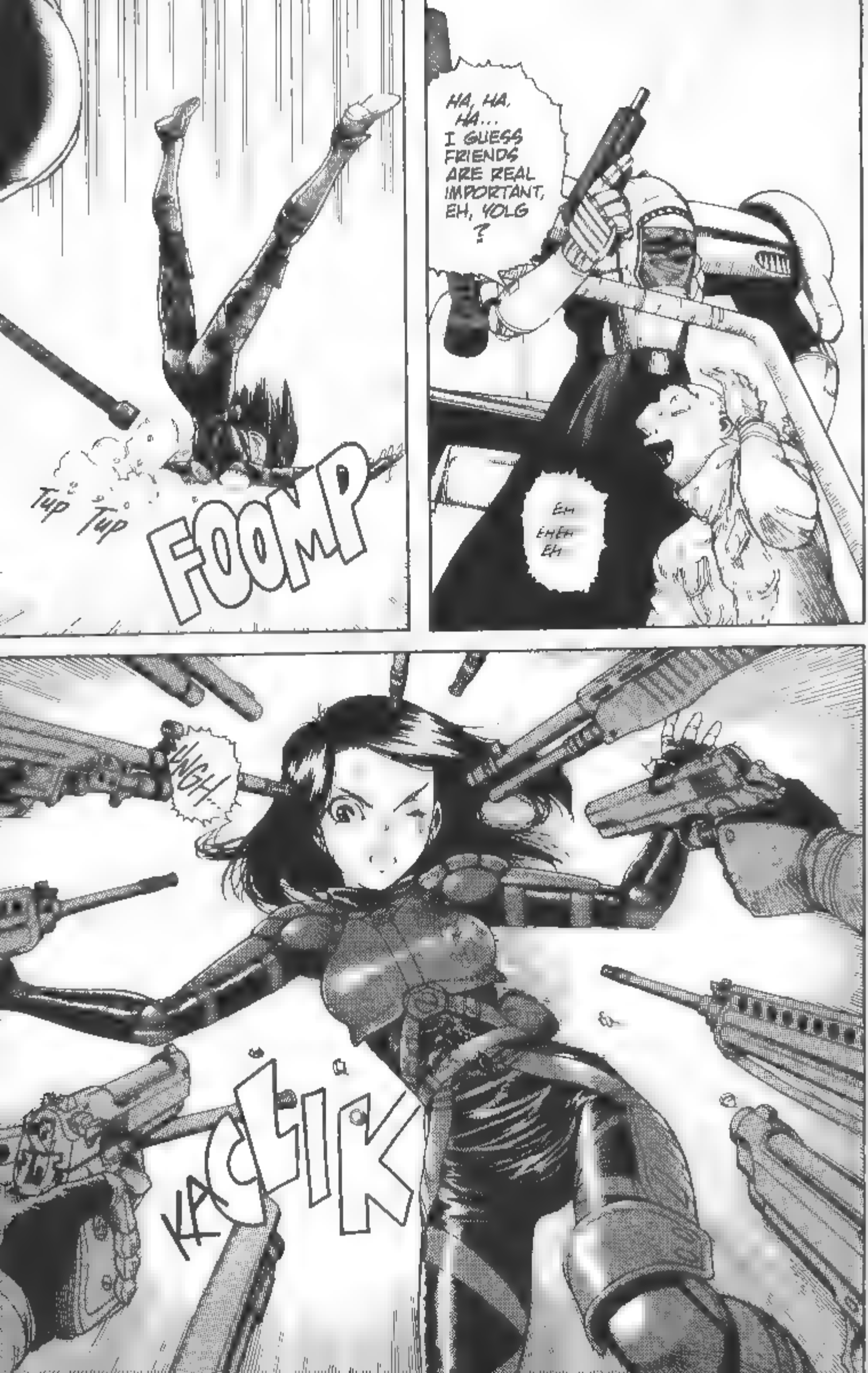
SKUK

FFFFFFSTT

HAAAAA!
N-NO!
W-WAIT A SECOND, ALITA!
GULP
SKITCH


TH-THIS MAN...
...I-IS MY CH-CHILDHOOD FRIEND!
YOLG. . ?


BLAM BLAM BLAM
UCK!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM

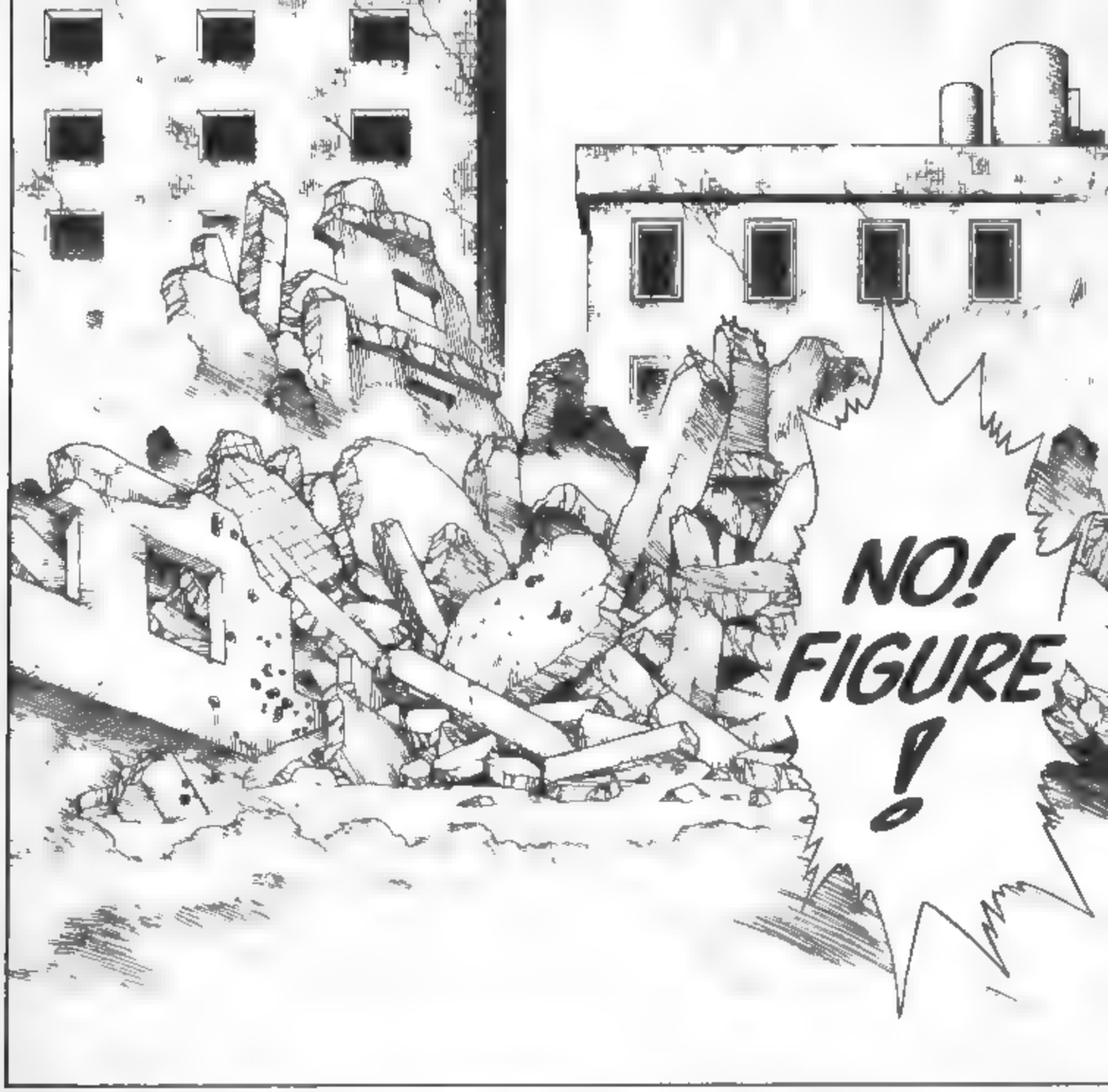

Tup Tup
FOOMP
HA, HA, HA... I GUESS FRIENDS ARE REAL IMPORTANT, EH, VOLG ?
EH EHEH EH
UNGH
KACHIK

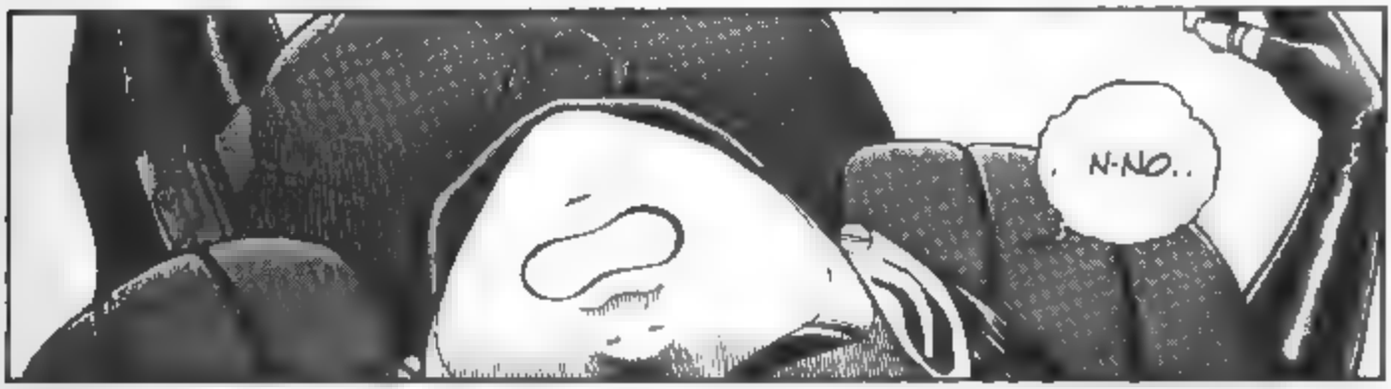
Y-YOLG... WHAT ARE YOU...?
I-I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG... I-I JUST W-WANTED TO SIDE WITH THE B-BIG GUYS...
EH HEH
Y-YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING I'M A C-COWARD...
...B-BUT A-ALITA AND F-FIGURE... YOU BOTH H-HAVE STRENGTH AND C-COURAGE...
EHEHEH
B-BUT WHAT AB-BOUT A W-WEAKLING LIKE ME? WH-WHAT AM I S-SUPPOSED TO DO?
F-FREEDOM IS SOMETHING ONLY THE ST-STRONG CAN HAVE!
I-I'D RATHER HAVE A D-DOG COLLAR T-THAN F-FREEDOM!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GLG!

BAWHAM!

FIGURE!


NO!
FIGURE
!


N-NO..

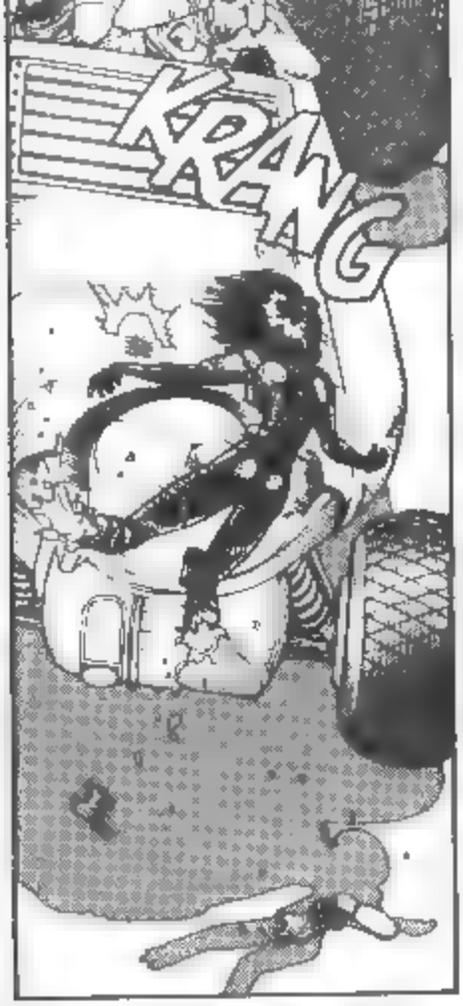
CHITTA
CHITTA
AAH...
AAAAH...
CHITTA

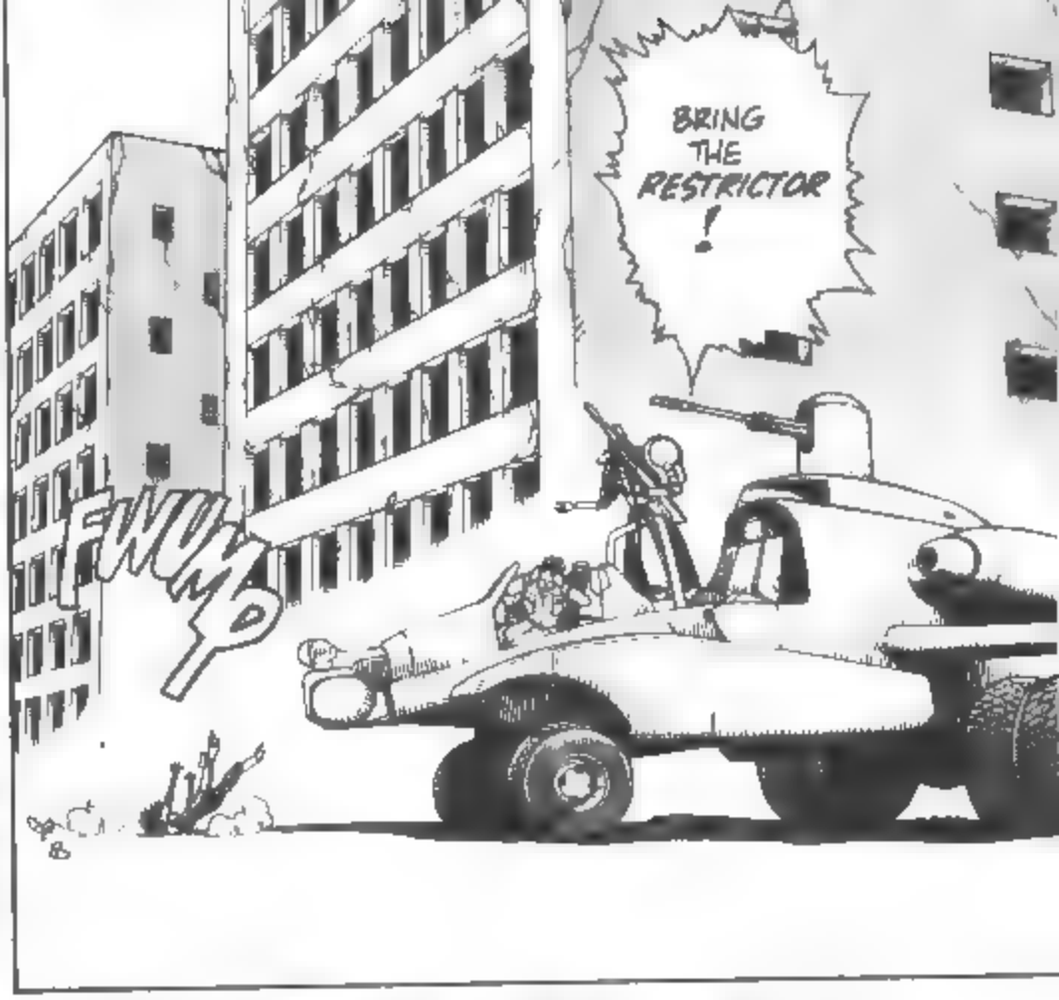
GAH!
YOLG.
!

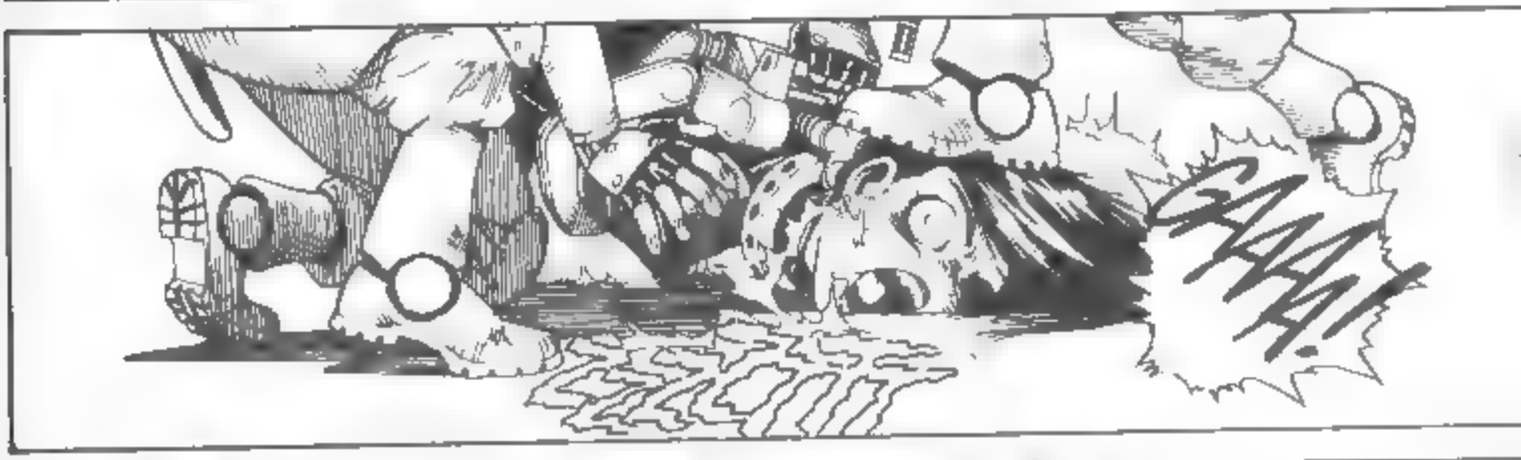
THE PLAINS OF BETRAYAL
Journey 5: Cowardice
YOU TRAITOR!

A-AHHH!
TMP TATMP
STAND BACK...
TH-THAT GUN! IT'S...
FSSH
HOW DARE YOU...? I-
-I CARED ABOUT HIM!
FMP
WHOOSH

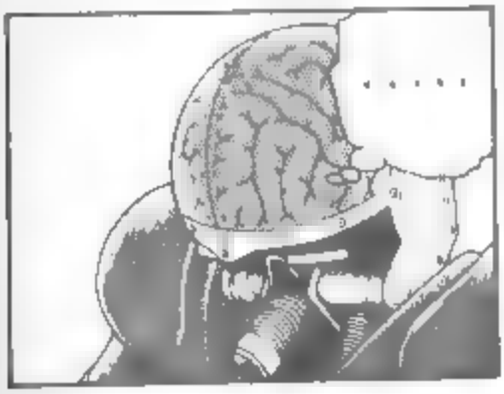
BRRRRRR
SPOOF


KRANG

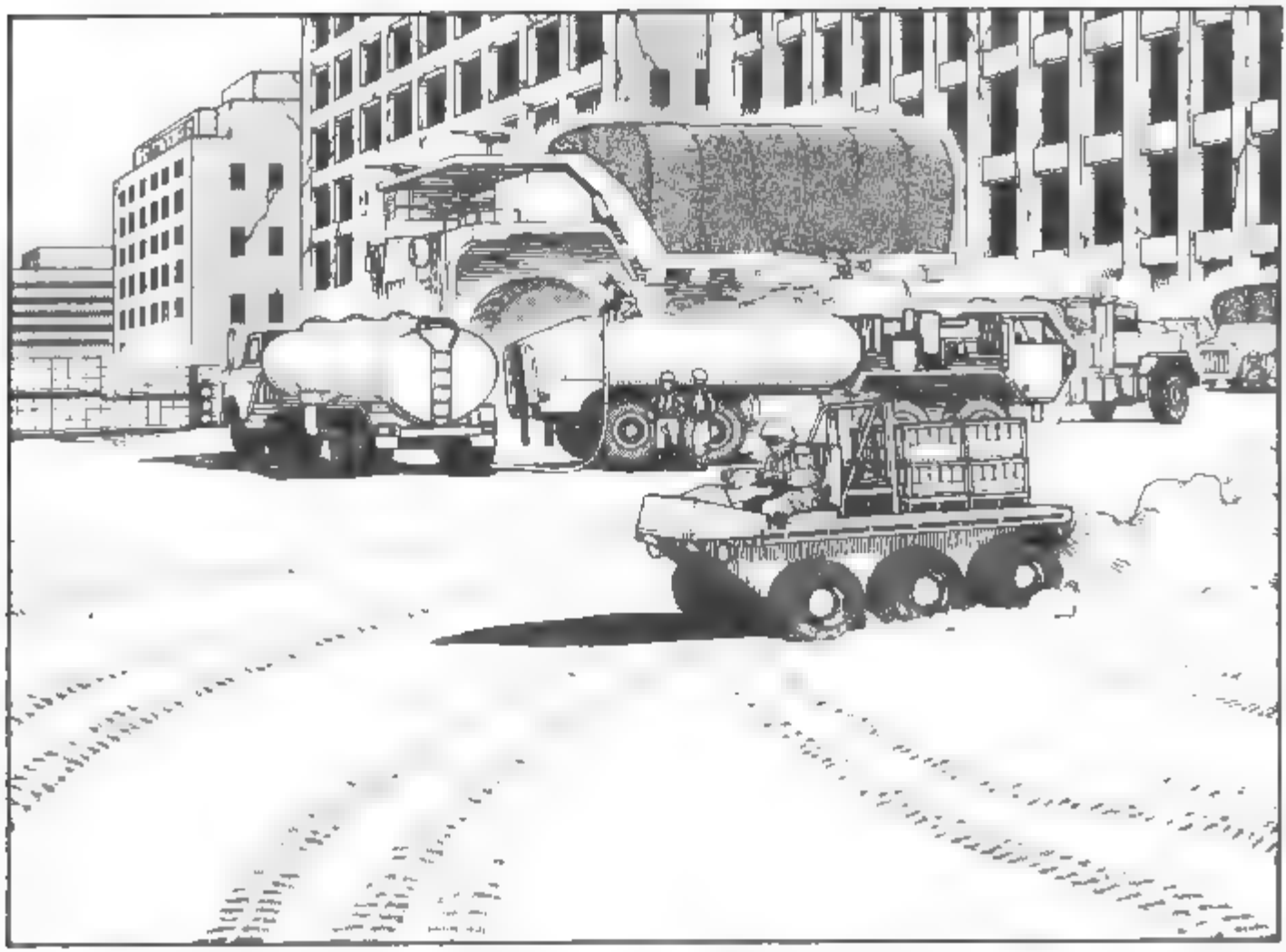

BRING THE RESTRICTOR !
FWUMP


GAAAA!

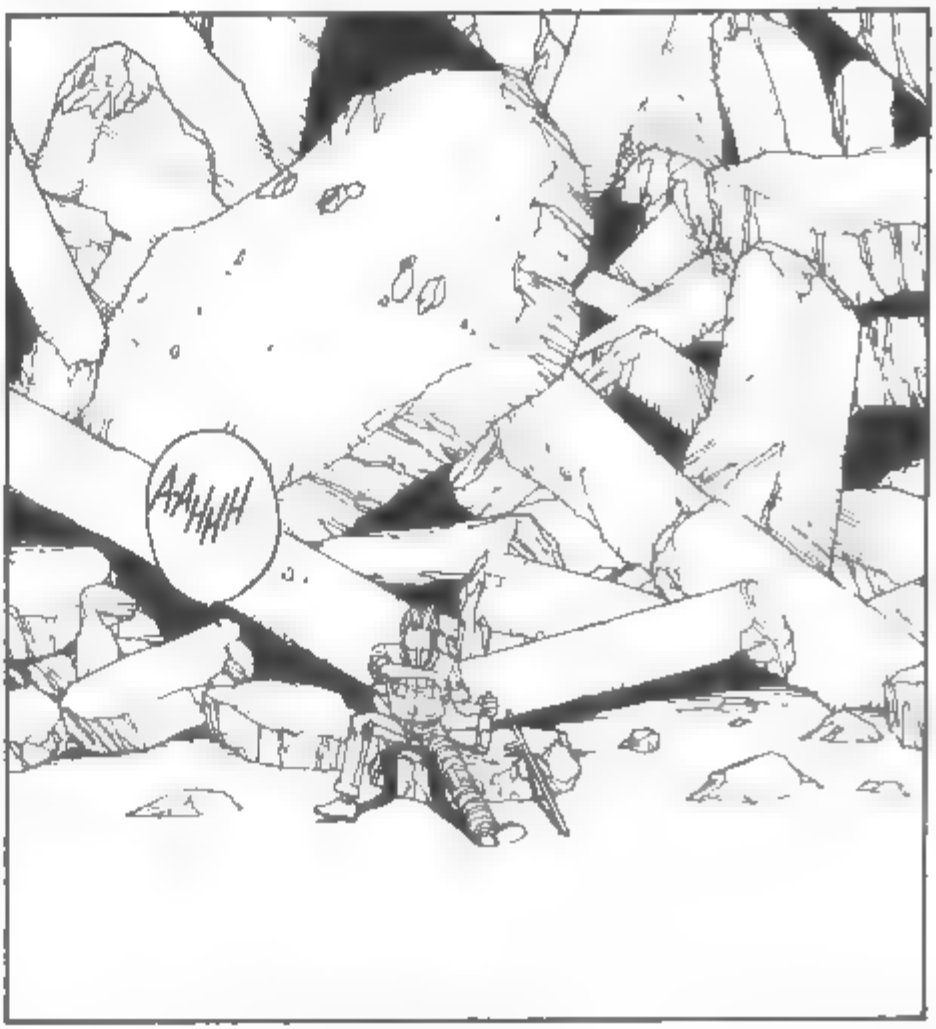
HF!
UFF!


. . . . .

REGROUP AND CHECK FOR SURVIVORS !
CALL UP THE REAR FORCES AND BEGIN THE RESUPPLY AS PLANNED !



GLUB
GLUB
FACT
INDUSTRIAL


AAHHH

" FREEDOM IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE RUDDER OF YOUR LIFE..."
"... VOLG'S GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITIN' FOR HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF..."
I-I'M SORRY, FIGURE
FUP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, VOLG...?
TWP
GLUB
C-COLONEL BOZZLE.!

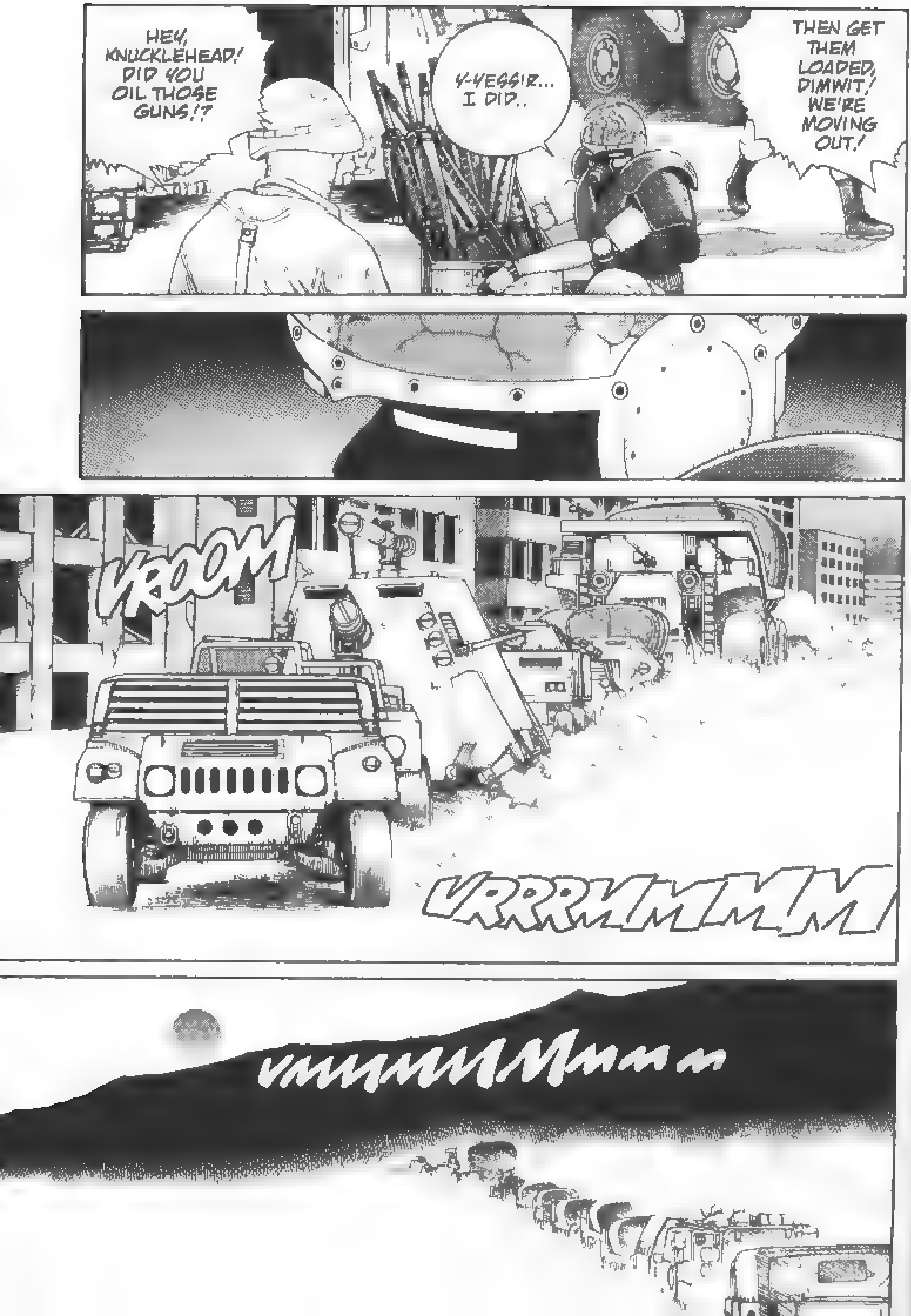
I-I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HERE, OF ALL P-PEOPLE! YOU WERE SO PR-PROUD TO BELONG TO THE "GREEN BERET"* T-TRIBE AND TO LEAD A MERCENARY SQUAD.
I-I HEARD YOU WERE KILLED TWO YEARS AGO, FIGHTING THE B-BARJACK.
HEH! THINKING THE HUNTER HAS BECOME THE HUNTED?

UNTIL I WENT UP AGAINST THE BARJACK, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A NEW GROUP OF BRIGANDS..BUT AFTER MY DEFEAT, I REALIZED I WAS MISTAKEN.
I SAW HIM-- THE GREAT LEADER, DEN-- AND I LEARNED OF HIS AMBITION!

TO LAY WASTE TO THE FACTORY! TO DROP TIPHARES!
TO BREAK FREE OF TIPHARES' CONTROL AND MAKE OUR OWN COUNTRY, HERE, ON THE SURFACE!

*GREEN BERET: ONCE THE U.S. ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES, NOW A TRIBE OF HIGHLY SKILLED WARRIORS

D-DROP THE SKY...?! TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
IT DOES SOUND FARFETCHED... BUT I ADMIRE HIS CONVICTION--
AND IF MY INSIGNIFICANT LIFE CAN AID IN THAT VISION, I WOULD DIE WILLINGLY!
IT IS DESTINY THAT WE HAVE MET AGAIN, YOLG! LET'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, SIDE BY SIDE. .
E-EHEH-EH... I-I HAVE TO--
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO ATTACK FACTORY FARM ZZ!
!!
F-FARM ZZ... TH-THAT'S WHERE M-MY WIFE AND KID ARE...
W-WAIT A MINUTE, BOZZLE!
HMM... YOUR LEG IS INJURED? GO SEE THE MEDIC AND HAVE HIM REPAIR IT.
P-PLEASE LISTEN...!


HEY, KNUCKLEHEAD! DID YOU OIL THOSE GUNS!?
Y-YESSIR... I DID..
THEN GET THEM LOADED, DIMWIT! WE'RE MOVING OUT!
VROOM
VRRRMMMMM
VMMMMMMmmm

ACTORY
INDUSTRIAL
KATA KATA
KA-BOOM
PISH
STAGG

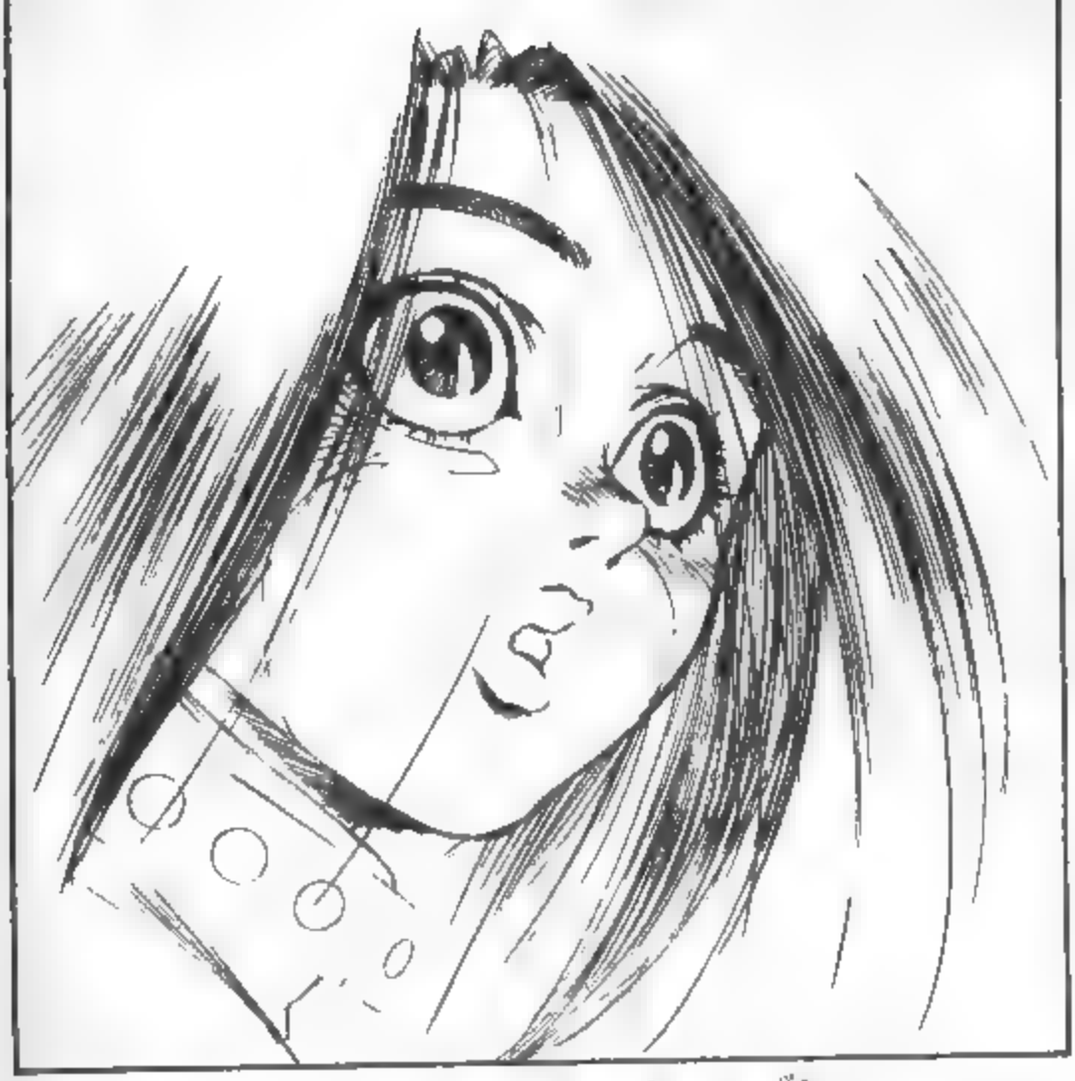
FRESH

GULP
GULP
GULP
GULPPPP
AAAAH! I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN--!
AND EVEN THEM BULLETS KEEP AVOIDIN' ME!

KACHAK

SHE'S OUT COLD!
HEH... YOLG WAS RIGHT! THE EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLY IS DOING THE TRICK!
WAKE UP!
UNGH
WAKE UP, "ANGEL OF DEATH"...
YOU'LL BE THOROUGHLY INTERROGATED ONCE WE JOIN THE MAIN FORCES...
...BUT THERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU RIGHT NOW.
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS...
WHAT?
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I LOST CONTACT WITH TIPHARES...
THAT MEANS... AS ONE OF THE TUNED... I'VE BEEN CAST AWAY BY TIPHARES...

OH.?
TH-THERE'S NO HOPE... FIGURE IS DEAD...AND MY MIND WILL PROBABLY BE RAPED OF ITS INFORMATION-- AND THEN I'LL BE KILLED!
BUT..IF I'M BEING TAKEN TO BARJACK'S MAIN CAMP... THEN THAT COULD MEAN...
MY PRIMARY MISSION AS A TUNED... WAS TO CAPTURE THE SCIENTIST DESTY NOVA, WHO DEFECTED FROM TIPHARES..
PROFESSOR NOVA? THAT WEIRDO...?
HE'S OUR LEADER DEN'S GOOD FRIEND I SEE...
AND THE ONLY REASON I JOINED THE TUNED IS.. IS TO FIND DAISUKE IDO, WHO NOVA TOOK AWAY..!
IDO...?
THE TIPHAREAN DOCTOR-PROFESSOR NOVA'S RIGHT-HAND MAN



IDO... YOU ARE ALIVE...

I WANT TO SEE YOU...!

IF I CAN SEE IDO AGAIN, I-- I DON'T CARE IF I'M A PRISONER...!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M JUST A BRAIN...! I DON'T EVEN NEED MY FREEDOM...!

HUH? IS SHE CRYING?

HEH! HUMANS ARE SO WEAK...

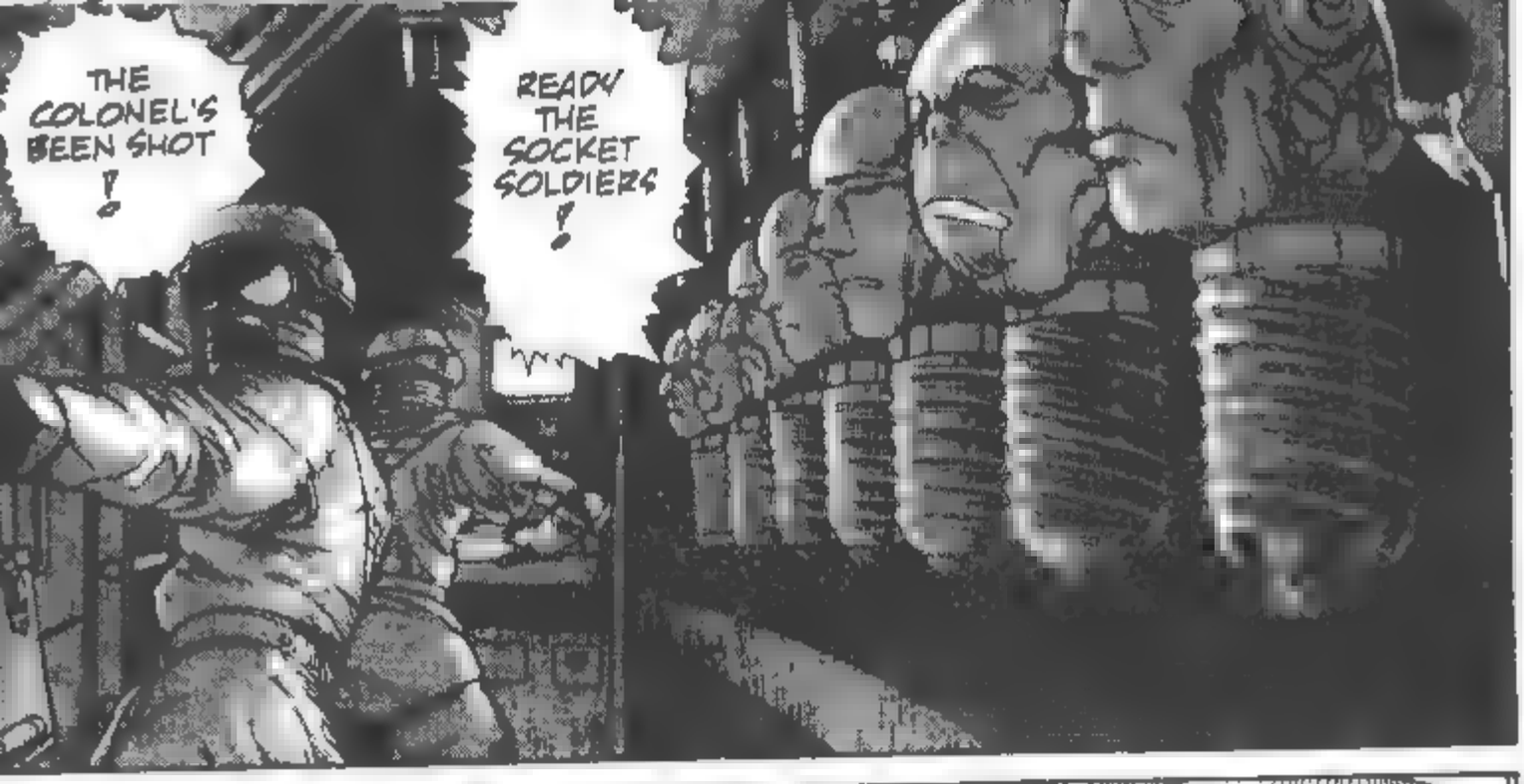
GAK!

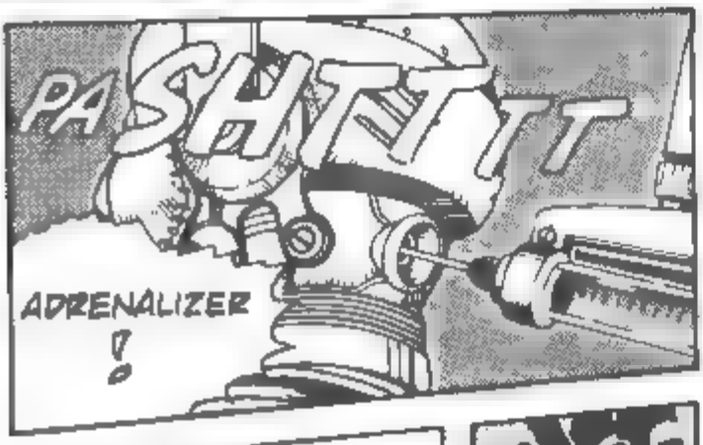
BLAM

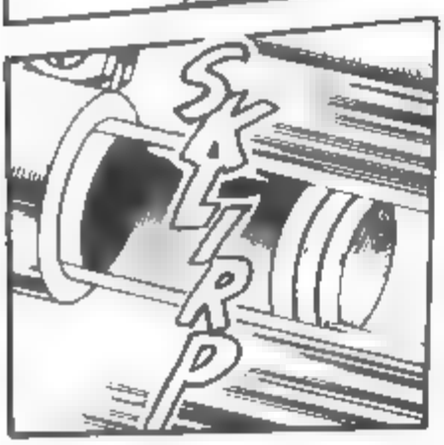
!?

HAHAA! THIS IS FOR MAKING A FOOL OF ME!
KN- KNUCKLEHEAD !? HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?
BLSH
BLSHBLSH

SPLUP
HAHAA! I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE, ALITA!
STOP IT! YOU IDIOT!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!? I COULD HAVE SEEN IDO!
IDO--!
SHADDAP! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'-- CRYIN' LIKE SOME BABY!?
SPAM
,S THIS THE SAME ANGEL OF DEATH I FOUGHT?! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!


THE COLONEL'S BEEN SHOT!
READY THE SOCKET SOLDIERS!


PA SHTTTT
ADRENALIZER!


SKLRP

BNGG

WHAT IN HELL!?
SSH
TSSH
SKSSS!

GAH... GUUGH.
FSSSH
FSSH

I SWITCHED YOUR ADRENALIZER WITH CLEANING DETERGENT!
WHAT?

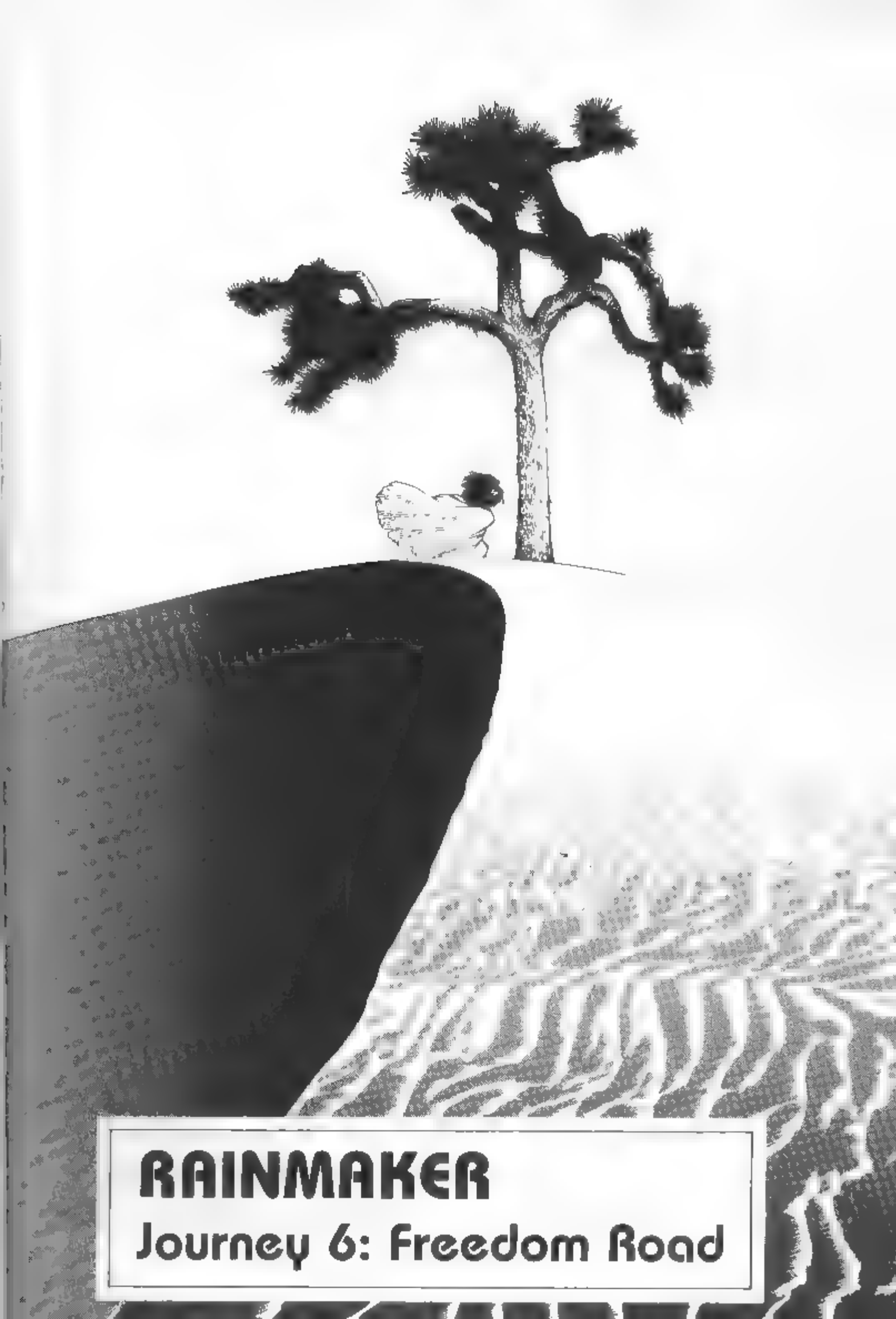
BOOM
HAAA!
DIE!
YOU-- YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST US!
STMP
HAHAA! FOOLS--I'VE RIGGED ALL THE GUNS!
GAHH!
KA-BOOM
BOOM

KABOOM
BOOM
SSSHH
BRM BRM BRM
WAHAHAHA! BURN, BABY, BURN!
YOU, YOU SAVED ME, KNUCKLE.. ?
BABAM

HSOOOOSH

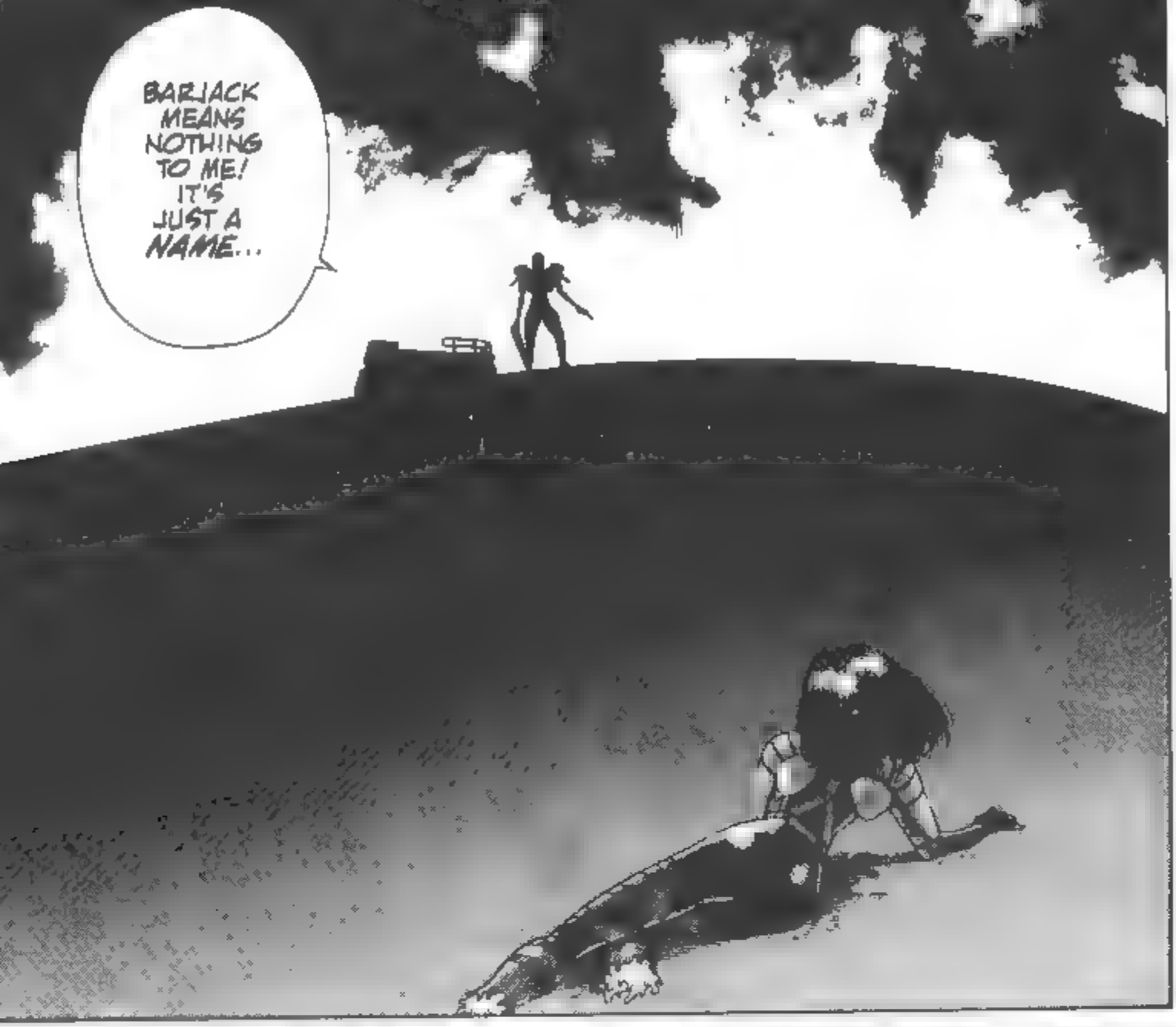
DON'T GET ME WRONG-- I JUST DIDN'T WANT THE OTHER FOOLS TO KILL YOU!

HAAAAAAAH! YOU'RE ALL MINE!
KLK



RAINMAKER

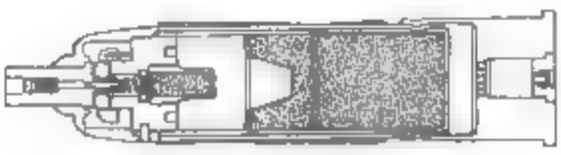
Journey 6: Freedom Road


BARJACK MEANS NOTHING TO ME! IT'S JUST A NAME...

...RIDING MY MACHINE, . FIRING MY GUN-- THAT'S ALL I'LL EVER NEED!
FOOM

THE FRONT SECTION OF THIS EXPLOSIVE SHELL IS A CONE SHAPE, TO ALLOW THE BLAST TO BE PROPELLED FORWARD UPON IMPACT. USING THE PRINCIPLE KNOWN AS THE "MONROE EFFECT," THE BULLET CAN PIERCE VIRTUALLY ANY ARMOR PLATING. THE PENETRATION POWER OF THE HE BULLET IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE CALIBER OF THE ROUND.

*HE (HIGH EXPLOSIVE) BULLET ※



(CUTAWAY VIEW)

--BUT THAT'S ENOUGH!
C'MON, ALITA!
YOU AND I ARE ALIKE... I COULD SENSE IT FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET! HAHAA!
FEELS GOOD TO CUT LOOSE, DON'T IT!? TO BECOME A WILD BEAST AND RUN 'TIL YA CAN'T RUN NO MORE!
LET'S GO, ALITA-- TO A WORLD WHERE IT'S NOTHIN' BUT WHITE!
HEH.

HAHA!
HA HAHA!
THAT'S IT! CMON!
HAHA!
HA..!?
WHA--!?

SKRANG
GURA!
HOW PATHETIC!
IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF FREEDOM!?

IF YOU AIN'T GOT CONTROL OF THE RUDDERS OF YOUR LIFE, YOU SURE DON'T NEED SUCH A BIG BRAIN!
SKRCH
KA-OOM!

KAKRASH
GAH!
IT'S OVER.
PLUP
BLABLORSH
FWHOO
F-
FIGURE..
?

HEH, HEH. MY HARMONICA PLAYIN'S GOTTEN BETTER, RIGHT?
SISHSH
AHAHA!
AHAHAHA! YOU JERK-- YOU'RE ALIVE!
BAP BAP
OW! OW!!
IT'S GOTTEN SORTA SCRATCHED UP, BUT HERE...
NO... YOU KEEP IT.

RATATABRATTA
PIP
PIP
PIP
WHA--
!?
VEEEEEM
UCKLEHEAD'S.
DEAD?
I SUPPOSE EVEN THE TINIEST CREATURES HAVE A FULL SOUL! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED KNUCKLEHEAD WOULD TURN AGAINST ME. IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT SEEING IT...!
VWOOOOO

BUT NOW I KNOW BETTER! ANYONE--NO MATTER HOW SMALL--WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF BARIACK MUST BE CRUSHED WITHOUT MERCY!
KILL THEM!
YO...
YOLG!
SKA
CH

BBBBB
VIP
VIP
VIP
!!
YOLG, EVEN YOU...!?
VING
VING
VIP
CLICK
FOOLS! WHY CAN'T YOU SEE!?
BOOM
BABLABB

UNTIL WE DEFEAT TIPHARES, WE CANNOT HAVE TRUE FREEDOM-- NOT ON THE SURFACE!
BRATA
BRATA
BRATA
WE WHO FIGHT THIS WAR OF PROGRESS ARE THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANKIND!
VWIP VWIP
BOOSH
FOR THE REVOLUTION!
FWASH
KABOOOM
FIGHT ON, MY COMRADES!

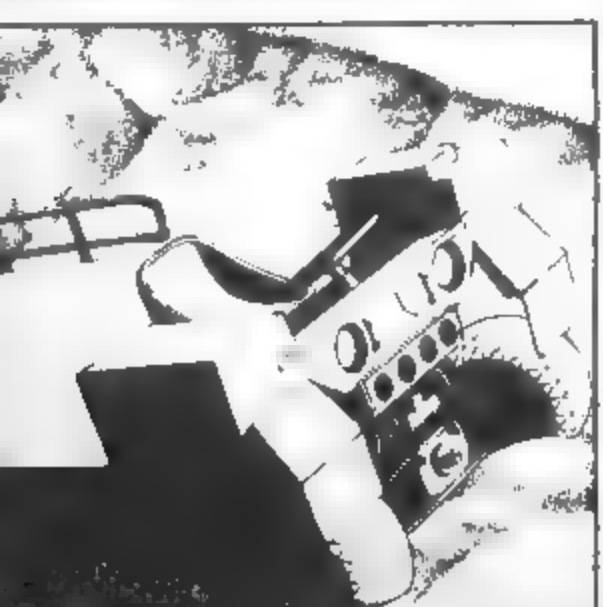
F-FORGIVE ME...
F-FIGURE.
A-ALITA...
FORGIVE ME..
TITCH
TITCH
I-I'M SUCH A F-FAILURE.. A-AND NOW I C-CAN'T EVEN SEE MY W-WIFE ANYMORE...SO... PLEASE--

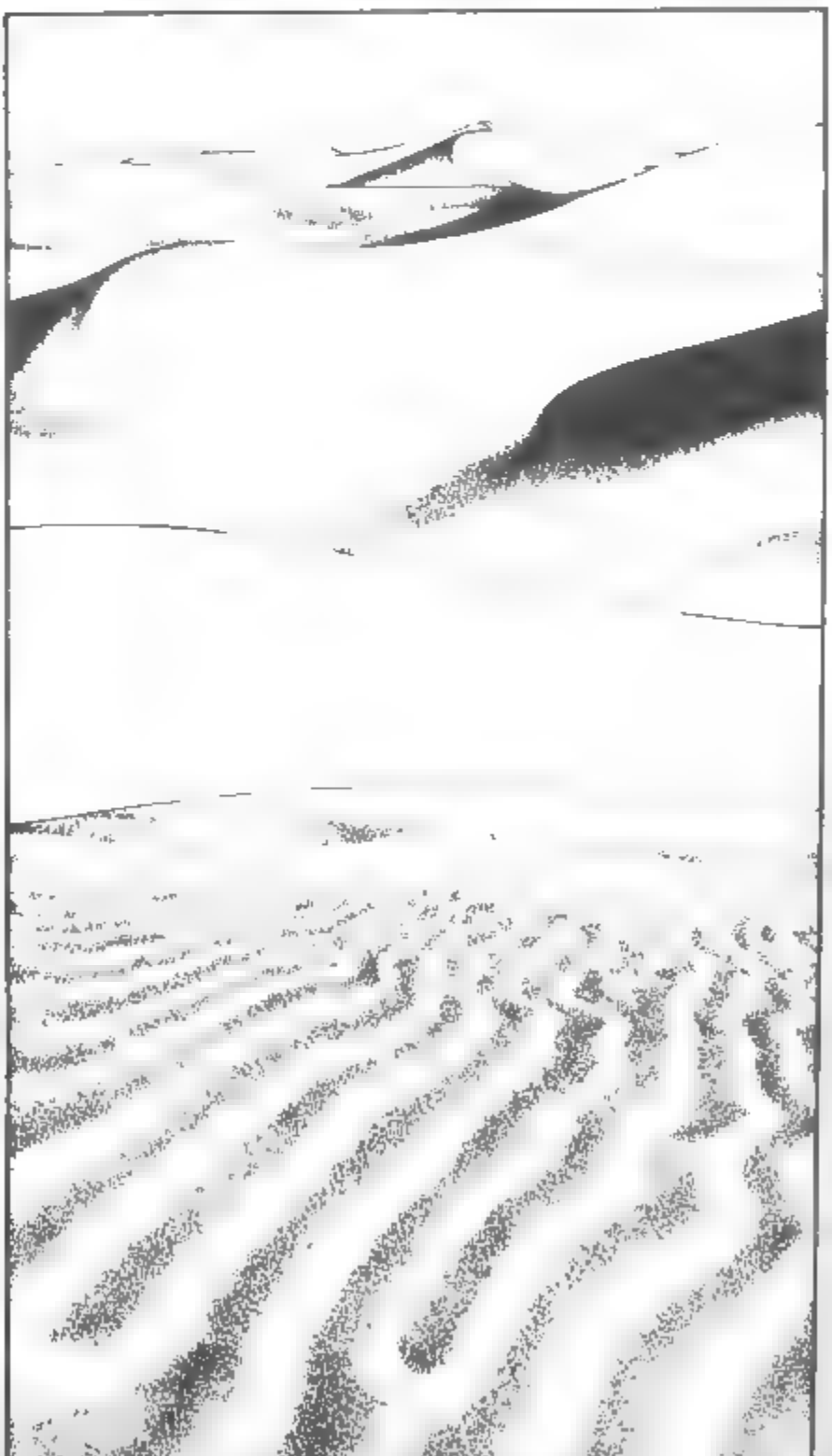
UMPH
YOLG.
!

SHAAAAHHH

SHOOO
DAMN! WHICH WAY WAS IT ?
I THINK WE SHOULD STAY PUT, FIGURE !

ZASH!





FMP

FIGURE...
YES, ALITA...?

I-I JUST OVERHEATED...
I GUESS SOFT MACHINE* BODIES ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO HEAT...
SSSSS
LEAVE ME BEHIND... I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF YOU DIED BECAUSE OF ME...
NO WAY!
BUT... CAN'T YOU COVER MORE GROUND IF YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND...?
HEH--I'M FREE TO CARRY THE WOMAN I'VE FALLEN FOR..
FREE TO GO LEFT OR TO GO RIGHT.
AND IF I DIE, IT WAS MY DESTINY.
BUT I AM GETTING A BIT THIRSTY.
I GUESS I'LL TRY ASKING THE GODS..

*SOFT MACHINE - FLEXIBLE MACHINES UTILIZING NANOTECHNOLOGY TO MAKE UP VITAL SYSTEMS.

WHAT'S THAT..?
A SONG I LEARNED FROM THE RAIN-MAKER... WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID...
TSSH
SAAAA
I GUESS...

FUMP
...LIFE'S ROUGH...
FIGURE...
SORRY... GUESS THE RAIN GOD DIDN'T ANSWER...
IT'S OKAY...
!

FWOOB
SHOOOO
AAAAAA
HAHAHAA! IT'S RAINING!
OW!
BWIP
WHAT IN THE WORLD !?
FWIP
FWAP

WHAT IS THIS...!?
DID YOU MANIPULATE THE WEATHER PATTERNS, DIRECTOR?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT...
I WAS MERELY GOING TO RECORD HOW THE REBELLIOUS ALITA WOULD MEET HER END.
THEN YOU LOSE, DIRECTOR.
YOU SHOULD RESCUE THEM.
.....
DR. RUSSELL...
...DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

End of BATTLE ANGEL ALITA: ANGEL OF DEATH graphic novel.